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Issue No 124

Available from Wednesday,  
February 10, 2010

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the right choice

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# COLLEGES' MERGER DEAL COULD STILL GO AHEAD

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[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



See Ashford's Nepalese community collecting  
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## **CLEAN-UP NEPALESE STYLE**

Ashford's Gurkha community organised a clean-up operation with military precision on Sunday.

More than 50 men, women and children descended on the Warren Country Park and collected a huge pile of rubbish sacks including everything from tyres to prams.

SEE PAGE 4

■ BY ED HILL

THE two sides hoping to steer South Kent College into a more certain future say they still hope merger plans can go ahead.

Two weeks ago West Kent College, which was chosen as the best nearby educational body to merge with South Kent College, rejected a financial offer from the Learning Skills Council (LSC).

The government body that funds post-16 learning had not written off £4.9 million pounds of debt run up by South Kent College.

Bill Fearon, principal of West Kent College, based in Tonbridge, said: "It did not meet the essential financial need to cover outstanding debts and provide sufficient investment to establish a successful new college through a merger."

Since it chose to pull out of the deal the LSC has made an improved offer which West Kent governors agreed to last week.

Mr Fearon said: "West Kent College has not shifted from its firm view that a merger of the two neighbouring colleges is the very best solution for the students, employers and stakeholders across West and South Kent."

The college is now putting pressure on South Kent to swiftly agree the deal so it can go ahead before the next general election.

Mr Fearon said: "It is now for the governors at South Kent College to agree the application for merger that goes to the Government, and we are very confident of approval because of the exceptionally strong support the proposal has from politicians, Kent County Council, local authorities, universities and a wide range of employers."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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#### TOP TV CLIPS



**1** NHS workers talk about the importance of giving blood at a Chatham Dockyard drop-in session. **Search 'Blood'**



**2** Firefighters tackle a huge blaze at a furniture store in Lyminge. **Search 'Lyminge'**



**3** Kent Police Chief Constable Michael Fuller talks about his decision to leave the Force. **Search 'Fuller'**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS **KENT ON SUNDAY** AND THE **SATURDAY EDITION** FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Printed by Newsfax

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# Shared space scheme wins national prize

■ BY ED HILL

ASHFORD'S controversial ring road scheme has won the top award for town centre regeneration.

It came out on top of 94 schemes considered by The Royal Town Planning Institute.

Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government Bob Neill MP presented the team behind the project with their award at the London Hilton, Park Lane on Thursday.

Kay Powell, chair of the judging panel for the RTPI said: "This project has transformed a town that was suffering from a concrete collar that restricted pedestrian movement to and from the centre of Ashford."

"The council, working with a multi-disciplinary team involving planners, engineers, urban designers, landscape architects and public artists, have transformed a series of streets where the space is now shared between vehicles and pedestrians."

The shared space concept, which was pioneered in Holland, removes the usual road signs and barriers that separate pedestrians and traffic. The theory works on the fact that drivers and pedestrians become more aware of each other, increasing safety.

Ms Powell said: "This reworking of Ashford's inner ring road has created a much more pleasant environment for people entering the town centre and the resultant neighbourhoods have become a more attractive location for retail and business development, marking a major stage in the regeneration of the town."

When it first opened the £16 million project was ridiculed in the national press by Top Gear presenter Jeremy Clarkson, who joked that



**INNOVATIVE:** Elwick Square in Ashford, at the heart of the shared space scheme

pedestrians would only make eye contact with drivers as they bounced off their windscreens.

But the judges praised the Kent County Council and Ashford council for backing the scheme. No accidents have been reported in the 12 months since it opened.

Ms Powell said: "The scheme demonstrates a high level of innovation and originality in the planning and design of roadscape and streetscape, which has resulted in a greatly enhanced and more civilised and sustainable urban environment, truly mediating space and making a better place."

Ben Hamilton-Baillie, who pioneers the concept of shared space in the UK and advised on the Ashford scheme, said: "Ashford presents a bold and very different approach to traffic engineering and urban design."

"It has helped the UK appreciate the potential for creating more civilised streets and spaces, and this will be a lasting legacy."

## 'Governors keen to support proposals'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

But South Kent College which runs the Jemmett Road campus in town along with the Ashford School of Art and Design may be getting cold feet on a deal.

It says it does not want to be rushed into any merger plans unless it can be sure it offers the best outcome for its students and protects its future.

Monica Box, principal of South Kent College, said: "Governors of South Kent College are keen to support a merger proposal that promotes the best interests of south Kent learners."

"They expect to see the full proposal, including the revised financial aspects, within the next week or so."

"They are hopeful they can support West Kent College's plan for the joined colleges following due consideration of the detailed submission."

"No one wants to hold up a thoroughly good scheme; once South Kent governors have had chance to assure themselves this is what is proposed, it would be full steam ahead for the plans."

If agreed the merger would go ahead in August this year – three months later than originally planned.

## Rural campaigner and judge dies, aged 88

JOSEPH Dean, who founded the East Ashford Rural Trust, has died.

The 88-year-old former Ashford councillor and circuit judge worked hard to protect the countryside around the borough.

He campaigned at the time of the building of the Channel Tunnel in the 1980s. His efforts meant that when the line was built, the route had the least environmental impact, despite it costing more because of the extra tunnelling that was required.

He also successfully persuaded the then Conservative Government under Margaret Thatcher to limit growth plans for Ashford eastwards along the line towards Folkestone.

Mr Dean, who was the son of Basil Dean, who founded Ealing Film Studios, also had a distinguished military career. He learned the eye test by heart so that Army doctors would not pick up that he was short-sighted and became an anti-tank gunner with the 51st Highland Division.

He fought in Alamein, Sicily and Normandy, where he was wounded in a mortar attack a day after he landed.

His funeral was held at St Mary's church in East Brabourne. It was attended by the mayor John Holland who had to leave the service early because of a prior engagement.

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# 'Metro' plan to boost Olympic commuting

■ BY NICK AMES

A NEW Metro-style commuter train will be running from Calais to Ashford by the start of the 2012 Olympics, according to French civic leaders.

Pas-de-Calais councillor Dominique Dupilet said the trains could run on the high speed rail link stopping in the French town before travelling on to local stations en route for London.

A spokesman at Kent County Council said proposals were outlined in the authority's 20-year Integrated Transport Strategy which is part of the Unlocking Kent's Potential programme.

Mr Dupilet said negotiations with his counterparts in Kent were well underway.

Eurotunnel, which earns revenue from trains passing through, said it had been approached by both local governments about the project, but a spokesman said it was still in its early stages and no decision had been reached.

The Metro trains would be more frequent than Eurostar, which only stops at stations like Lille, Calais, and Ashford infrequently.

Mr Dupilet said: "Our region and Kent are in negotiations. It's a metro, which will be very useful given the threats to the Eurostar's regional service.

"The line will start from Lille, then stop at Calais, Ashford and London. The English are very keen and we are very keen too."

Eurostar services from Ashford to France were reduced by the company two years ago,



**COMPETITION:** The Eurostar high speed trains may soon be sharing the line with a metro-style commuter train

and campaigners have argued that the International station is now underused.

Mr Dupilet said: "In order for the line to be rented, we have been told that the train has to leave from Lille. Negotiations will be over in time for the Olympic Games, but I would like the metro to last well beyond that."

The scheme follows a move by the French to cash in on the London Olympics by rebranding their region "part of Britain" – a move which has attracted criticism in some quarters.

But the ploy has helped them land contracts

with a string of foreign teams to train in France ahead of the 2012 Games.

Judith Armitt, from Ashford's Future, said: "A high speed commuter train between Lille and London could provide a welcome economic boost for Ashford.

"It could make international commuting a much more viable option and create great inward investment opportunities for the town from the Nord Pas de Calais area.

"This link would also strengthen our unrivalled connectivity even further."

## Road will stay as lane after survey

THE saga surrounding the name of a street in Kenardington rumbles on as the council executive agreed to keep the name Church Lane rather than Church Road.

The decision is the latest in a wrangle that has divided opinion in the village.

Last July the council agreed the lane should be known as a road after a petition from parish councillor Geoff Cornes.

Mr Cornes and other residents felt that the route had always been known as a road rather than a lane. They were angry that the name had been changed in 2006 after a request to Ashford council from parish councillor Victoria Cocking, who lived on the road, without wider consultation.

However, when Ashford council made the decision last year, it said that residents could keep it called a lane if that was what the majority of them wanted.

Following a survey, eight out of the 12 properties affected decided they want it to be known as a lane.

This means that the latest official name of the highway is Church Lane, although the final sign may have the additional information Formerly Church Road written underneath.

## Pigeons stolen

FIFTEEN racing pigeons have been stolen from a home in Hunter Avenue in Willesborough.

The birds, valued at £300, were taken from a pigeon loft in the garden of the house between 4pm on Thursday, January 28 and 11am the next morning.

A wooden racing pigeon crate, valued at £20, was also stolen.

Police would like to speak to anyone who has information about this theft. Call 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Arrest after motorcyclist dies in crash

POLICE have arrested a woman in connection with a fatal road accident in October last year.

Royal Mail worker Adrian Hyde died of his injuries in the William Harvey Hospital after he was knocked off his 50cc motorcycle at 5am on October 26.

The 20-year-old woman was arrested for obstruction and bailed until March 23.

Mr Hyde's motorcycle hit a Ford Fiesta car in Canterbury Road in Willesborough.

Police have renewed their appeal for witnesses.

At the time of the crash a police spokesman said: "The driver and passenger of the car, a Ford Fiesta, left the scene. It is thought one may have sustained an injury, which required treatment.

DC Di Walker from the Serious Crash Investigation Unit said: "We believe that people with information that will help this investigation have not come forward yet.

"I urge them to contact the SCIU witness line, in confidence, so we can further this enquiry."

Three men were arrested shortly after the incident, and have been bailed until February 9. If you have information call 01622 798538.

## Balaclava-clad thief escapes with cash from bookmakers

A BALACLAVA-clad robber stole cash from a bookmakers in Kennington last week.

The robbery took place at the Coral branch at the newly-opened retail development Eureka Place, off Trinity Road, on Friday.

The man went into the shop and demanded money from one of the female assistants at about 11.50 am. The assistant handed over the money immediately.

The bookmaker is opposite the Northdown offices in the business park area of Eureka Park.

A police spokesman said: "The shop assistant did not see any weapons and was not hurt.

"The offender is described as 6ft tall, wearing a balaclava with no mouth hole, sunglasses, a green jacket the same material as a puffa jacket, but not as puffy.

"She did not see the colour of his skin, but he was carrying a Tesco carrier bag. Officers have conducted an area search and house-to-house inquiries."



Tariq Miah from the Cinnamon Spice restaurant next to Coral said: "The first we knew about it was there were a lot of police cars and then we saw the forensic officers.

"We did see a man hanging around in front of our restaurant at about 11am. The police asked us to give a description of him.

"There are lots of people who work in the nearby offices who were walking about. I'm surprised that anyone would do such a thing."

Staff at the bookmakers refused to comment, but the shop was shut.

Witnesses are asked to call police 01303 289180.




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## yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

### Have your say on how council tax cash is spent

RESIDENTS in Ashford will be able to discuss how their council tax is spent at a meeting with councillors tonight.

They will also get a chance to speak about the services they want to see.

The meeting will be made up of Kent County Council and Ashford council members and officers. Presentations explaining the financial position and budget proposals for each council will be given.

Local board chairman Mike Angell from KCC said: "I urge everyone to come along and see what we're doing and to show us if we can do it better, especially during these challenging times."

The meeting takes place at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford.

### Developer donates cash to help build scout hut

THE campaign to build a new Scout hut in Kennington has received a cash boost from a national construction firm.

Taylor Wimpey has given the 1st Kennington Scouts £250 towards the construction of their new headquarters.

The group's existing base, Brenchley Hall, has been open for more than half a century but faces being condemned on health and safety grounds unless it is replaced with a new building.

The group has so far collected £115,000 towards the projected £350,000 cost of replacing its headquarters. They hope to have completed the build ready for its 100th anniversary celebrations next year.

Scout Leader Mike Cullen said: "Every penny brings us closer to our target, contributions such as this are gratefully received."

### Damian Green's expenses

SIR Thomas Legg published his report on MP's expenses last week.

The report covered every member's financial dealings with the expenses office in Westminster and showed that Ashford's MP Damian Green was overpaid by a total of £902.14 for mortgage interest, £143.03 in 2004/2005 and £759.11 in 2008/2009.

He was also paid cleaning costs totalling £5,200 for 2007-08 and 2008-09. This exceeded the maximum by £1,200.

Mr Green was asked to pay back a total of £2,102.14 which he did by April 2009. There was no other outstanding money.

# Funding is at the root of new project

THE British Trust for Conservation Volunteers at the Singleton Environment Centre has been granted more money to continue its Heritage Trees Project.

It has been awarded a grant of £22,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It now hopes to be granted a full award of £350,000 so it can establish a five-year conservation project.

If this application is successful the campaign would aim to safeguard the future of all of Kent's heritage trees.

Virginia Hodge, project officer said: "We are fortunate to have an array of these old trees here in Kent."

"Their great age, size and condition make them a unique and vital habitat for wildlife."

"They are the green monuments in our landscape that enrich the environment in which we live and work, but they have no legal protection other than tree preservation orders."

■ BY ED HILL

BTCV also wants to run community events in which people of all ages would be able to identify, interpret and celebrate trees in their surrounding area.

They would include wildlife courses, tree planting days, visits to historic parks, the publication of heritage tree trails for walkers and cyclists, and art exhibitions.

It would also require more volunteers to come forward and survey the ancient trees in their area.

Ms Hodge said: "Training and advice will be given to anyone who would like to get involved. No previous experience is necessary and surveying equipment and tree identification guides will also be provided free of charge."

Many heritage trees have a role in community history or folklore, as special meeting places or as parish boundary markers.

Ms Hodge said: "The project will be open to



**A NEW LEAF:** There are a number of ways you can branch out and get involved in the trees project

anyone so, if becoming a volunteer surveyor is not for you, then you are welcome to come along to any of the other events and activities."

"These trees are as much a part of our heritage as stately homes, cathedrals and works of art and are the favoured subject of many important paintings and engravings."

The group is looking for volunteers across the county.

If you would like to express an interest in getting involved contact Virginia Hodge at Kent BTCV, Singleton Environment Centre, call her on 01233 666519 or send an email to v.hodge@btcv.org.uk.

## Gurkha volunteers clean up the community

A MILITARY-style operation to smarten up the borough's countryside took place on Sunday.

The Sagarmatha Gurkha Nepalese Community came together to clear rubbish from the Warren Country Park near the town.

More than 50 men, women and children patrolled the park picking up rubbish that had been left by visitors as part of the Clean Kent campaign.

Chairman of the group Gomba Sherpa said: "We wanted to do something for the community that would be useful. This seemed a good way to help, especially as people are concerned about the environment."

Ashford now has more than 1,000 Nepalese people living in the borough, the second largest community in the country.

Before setting off on the litter trek they



were issued with high visibility jackets and given a health and safety briefing.

The volunteers soon collected a large pile of plastic bags full of rubbish, including old bikes, car tyres and metal prams.

After the operation the group enjoyed a hot drink as passing visitors thanked them for

their hard work.

Culture secretary Popiraj Rai said: "We think Ashford is a great place for us to live but it is important we work hard together to become more involved with local life. Events like today show our commitment to the community that we are proud to be a part of."



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**GROUND BREAKING:** Mayor Cllr John Holland digs the first sod at the site of the new Waterside Centre

# Mayor makes Sure Start for sports centre

WORK has begun on building a new sports centre for south Ashford.

The Waterside Centre will be a community building aimed at serving the sporting needs of South Willesborough and New Town.

The multi-use games area will cost nearly £1 million to complete. The money has been raised by contributions from private companies who built the nearby Bushy Royds development, Kent County Council, Ashford's Future and the Government Sure Start scheme.

At the opening ceremony Mayor Cllr John Holland broke the ground where the centre will be built close to the existing SWAN centre.

He said: "I am delighted the people of South Willesborough and New Town will soon have more excellent community facilities to enjoy. "This is a momentous occasion for all concerned, from the future users and their families to all the partners who have worked so hard to bring this project to life."

The area was chosen because play provision for local youngsters was deemed to be low, and after a consultation, a sporting facility was what residents felt was needed most.

■ BY ED HILL

Following the ground breaking, guests were treated to performances by East Stour Primary School choir, before a foundation stone dedicated to the mayor was unveiled.

The mayor also revealed the name of the new building, after the community was invited to vote for their favourite of three possible names.

Waterside proved most popular and a new competition was launched on the day to help design the centre's new sign.

The building work is expected to be completed by the autumn.

The new Sure Start children's centre, which will include a crèche, will be run by Kent County Council, and the sports youth club run by The Salvation Army and supported by Bromley Green Football Club.

The neighbouring SWAN Community Centre in Cudworth Road will also benefit from refurbishment as part of the project.

Sure Start is the government scheme to give all children the best possible start in life.

## Introducing village's very good sport

RESIDENTS in the rural parts of the borough can now turn to a dedicated sports officer to keep them fit.

Christian Burwash, 39, has been brought in by Ashford council to launch a programme of activities ranging from cycling to dance called Active Together.

Initially targeting Betersden, it will focus on the needs of the over 50's and people with disabilities.

The appointment is part of the Active Ashford Scheme.

Mr Burwash has more than 10 years experience in sport development and is a qualified fencing, archery and bocce coach.



He said: "This will be a great opportunity to offer the people a range of activities."

Ward member for Betersden Cllr Robert Taylor added: "The initiative to increase Ashford's support to our villages is doubly welcome."

"First it shows the importance of improving the leisure facilities so necessary to maintaining our rural life, and second because Betersden is a very worthy choice. It is an active village which I know will make full use of this initiative."

yourashford

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Green light for new homes

A MAJOR new housing development to build 79 homes has been passed.

Persimmon Homes wants to build the homes as part of the Park Farm development.

The 2.35 hectare site will see a range of two, three and four bedroom homes and one and two bedroom flats. It will also include 14 affordable homes, a total of 220 parking spaces and associated landscaping.

The phase three site is part of the wider Bridgefield development, which straddles the A2070 and Ashford to Hastings railway line and is likely to see 780 homes in total.

Cllr John Kemp, portfolio holder for planning and development, said: "With 250 homes already completed and around 230 more in progress, Park Farm is a major development site in the town."

"I believe they will appeal to a range of occupiers and will attract existing Ashford residents as well as newcomers."

## Sex assault description

KENT police have released a further description of the person believed to have attacked a 27-year-old woman in the Godinton area.

The serious sexual assault happened down an alleyway between Cypress Avenue and Springwood Close as she walked home on Tuesday, January 26 at around 6.20pm.

The man is described as white, 6ft tall, medium build, short dark hair and he was wearing black or blue jogging bottoms with a dark long sleeved jacket. This rustled as he moved. He had white trainers with a black/blue arch, possibly Reeboks.

Witnesses should call police on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Independent snow review

EUROSTAR will be publishing its independent review into the chaos caused for passengers because of bad weather last December.

It will be holding a press conference on Friday hosted by joint chairman Christopher Garnett and Claude Gressier.

Cold weather in France led to a series of engine breakdowns. One train with more than a thousand passengers became stuck in the tunnel for ten hours and eventually had to be towed to Ashford station where passengers were transferred to another train.



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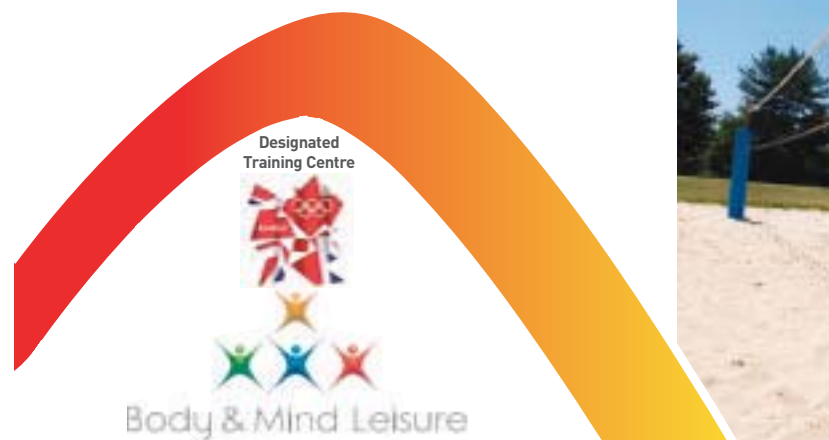
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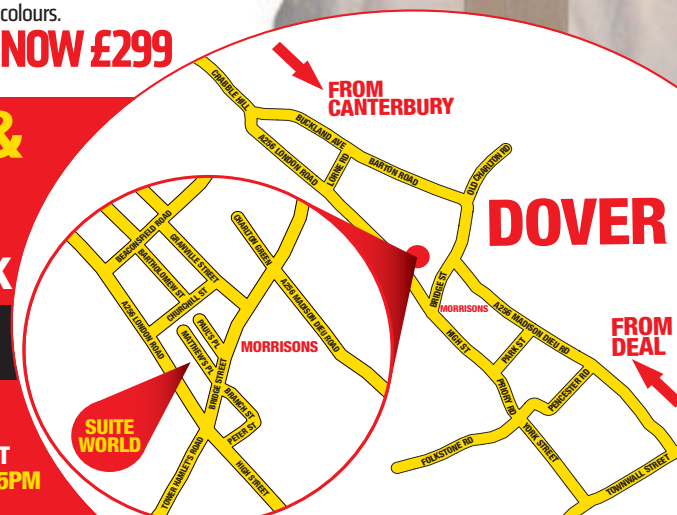
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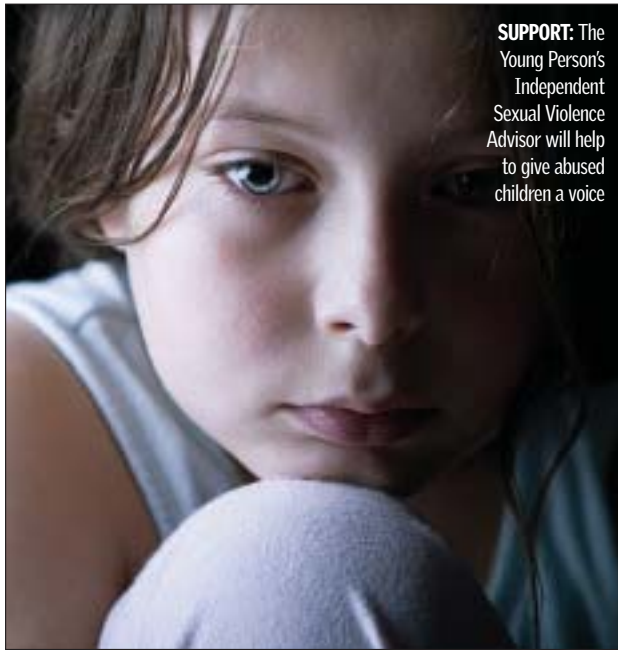
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# Specialist advisor to help sexually-abused children



**SUPPORT:** The Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor will help to give abused children a voice

## Grant will provide dedicated support for young rape victims

■ BY **MARIJKE COX**

A CHARITY supporting Kent's victims of rape and sexual violence has secured funding for Britain's first-ever children's independent advisor.

The new position means young people who have suffered abuse at the hands of rapists and paedophiles can access specialist, confidential support solely for youngsters.

Gravesend-based Family Matters was able to make the provision thanks to a grant of £64,000 from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

Malcolm Gilbert, operations director at the charity, said the new Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (YP-ISVA) was vital.

He said: "Of the 200 rape victims we see, a quarter are aged 12 to 16.

"By offering this help we are filling a gap which has never been done before for children."

Mr Gilbert added that as well as

being awarded the grant, the partnership between Family Matters, the Crown Prosecution Service and Kent Police through the Kent Criminal Justice Board had made real changes to victim support.

The organisations are also working with the UK Border Agency to help deal with young girls who have been trafficked for the sex trade.

Rebecca Masey, who has taken on the YP-ISVA position, will offer tailored support to children and young people who have suffered rape or sexual abuse and act as a gateway to the charity's therapy service.

Risk assessments will take place to ensure further victimisation is stopped. The focus will be on hard-to-reach groups and youngsters less likely to come forward for help. Close family members of victims will also receive support.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian

Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said he was sure that the specialist service would also help secure convictions.

"Through this role, vulnerable and emotionally-scarred children will get more of the help and support they need and deserve," he said.

One person who knows only too well the need for services like Family Matters is 24-year-old Sarah (not her real name).

Last August she was raped by two men after her drink was spiked. Speaking about her ordeal to KOS Media, she said she would not have been able to cope had it not been for the Adults' Independent Sexual Violence Advisor.

"It's important children are helped too," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to get through this without the counselling.

"I would just say to anybody, don't hide it. Come forward and get help."

For more information, go to [www.familymattersuk.org](http://www.familymattersuk.org).

# Artefacts saved as fire museum made homeless

THE Kent fire service museum urgently needs a new home.

Fire chiefs have reluctantly been forced to move it from their Maidstone headquarters and are now hunting for a new location to house the collection.

Fire service historian Roger Mardon, from Canterbury, said he was sad about the closure but delighted his campaign to keep the collection together had been successful.

He said: "In my view, the museum should preferably be maintained at service headquarters, but if that were not to be it is important to preserve the collection intact.

"There was unanimous support [at the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority's planning and performance committee] for the principle of keeping the collection together.

"A project team, including representatives of the interested parties, is to be established to develop plans for a virtual [online] museum and for rehousing the artefacts.

"Committee chairman Keith Ferrin made it clear it was not the intention to close the existing museum straight away and he undertook that everything possible would be done to rehouse the collection in one place.

"While it is disappointing the museum will have to move, I am encouraged by the support for keeping the collection together. Every effort must be made to find somewhere this can be done."

The museum opens one day a week and includes artefacts including videos of fire, photographs and a hollowed-out tree trunk used as a water main.

A fire service spokesman said: "We have teams of staff who need to be located at our HQ to run the service and we do not have room to house them.

"This means we have to look at all options and freeing up space taken up by the museum has to be considered."



Picture: ROGER MARDON

**HISTORY:** This Bromley steamer is one of many fascinating artefacts to be seen at the museum

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### ANN MCGOVERN



**Q** What is your name and what do you do?

**A** My name is Ann McGovern and I work as a physiotherapy technical instructor on the Richard Stevens Stroke Unit at the William Harvey Hospital. I help people to recover movement and independence after they have suffered a stroke. I am 42 years old and I have been married for 20 years. I have two children aged 16 and 15 years old.

**Q** What fundraising things have you done in the past?

**A** I have taken part in several sponsored one mile swims for Cancer charities. I have abseiled down the Checkers Centre in Maidstone for Diabetes UK and did the Boxing Day Dip to raise money for Folkestone Lions and the Stroke unit here at the hospital.

**Q** Why do you do all this fundraising?

**A** I like helping people and I like talking to people as well.

**Q** What is your latest venture?

**A** I am going to do the Inca Trail in Peru in October. It's a 45 kilometre hike up Machu Picchu. The trip will last for 10 days and the hike will take five to six days. There will be 20 people going and we are raising money for Kent

Kids 'Miles of Smiles'. The charity runs two residential homes Footprints and Redwalls near Canterbury. It offers respite and permanent accommodation for sick and disabled children from two years up to young adulthood. They suffer from conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, and muscular dystrophy. Money will be used to build a Sensory room. We are each trying to raise £3,500 to reach a target of £40,000.

It is a fairly challenging trek; we will reach altitudes of 4200m, so you have to get acclimatised. We will be passing Inca ruins of Llactapata and then climbing to Warmiwanusca or Dead Woman's Pass, the highest point on the trail. On the third day we will finally get a glimpse of Machu Picchu Mountain.

**Q** What made you decide to do the Inca trail?

**A** I have a friend, Liz Baxter, who is a fundraiser for Kent Kids Miles of Smiles. She asked me to sponsor her to do the trek but when she told me there was an extra place and asked if I'd like to go, I said 'yes'. It's something I have always wanted to do; take on a big challenge.

**Q** How are you raising the money for the trip?

**A** Over the coming months we have group activities to raise money which include a quiz night, an Easter Egg hunt, car boot fairs and a big summer fair in September. I am raising money myself by organising a children's

disco, a quiz night, 'How many sweets in the jar' competition, and a tombola raffle. I am also asking friends for donations and sponsorship.

**Q** How are you preparing yourself for the challenge?

**A** I am doing a Basic Teaching course (PTLLS) at South Kent College in Folkestone. There is a gym there called the Learning Zone. They have kindly donated free gym membership for 10 months and someone to help me train.

**Q** I hear you are also involved with community projects?

**A** I am site coordinator for my local neighbourhood watch and I have organised events to bring our street closer together. I am on the board for FENWAG (Folkestone East Neighbourhood Watch and Community Groups) and the East Folkestone Inspiring Communities Steering Group where we are planning to help young people in our area over the next two years. I am also involved in the employment working group which helps people get back to work and the Folkestone East youth council.

**Q** How can people get involved with the Inca Trail Fundraising Trek?

**A** People can donate via my webpage on [www.justgiving.com/ann-mcgovern](http://www.justgiving.com/ann-mcgovern). There is also a sponsorship form on the Stroke Unit at the William Harvey hospital. For more information see [www.miles-of-smiles.org.uk](http://www.miles-of-smiles.org.uk).

**Q & A**

Ann McGovern, a physiotherapy technical instructor at the William Harvey hospital, talks to **Ed Hill** about her latest fundraising challenge of trekking the Inca trail in Peru for Kent Kids Miles of Smiles charity



**You were concerned about people drinking on the streets and in public places**



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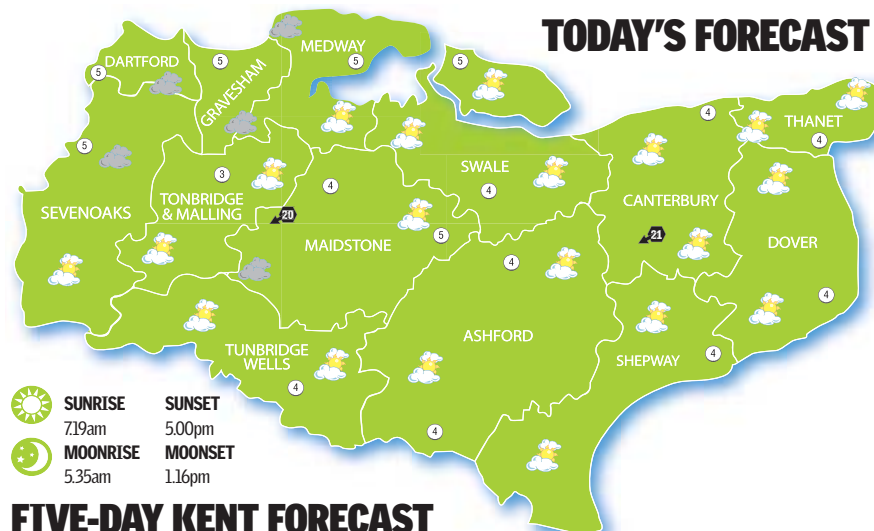
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## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

<b>Chatham</b>	Saturday	12:42pm	5.7m
	Sunday	1:15pm	5.8m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	10:55am	6.1m
	Sunday	11:27am	6.2m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	10:48am	6.9m
	Sunday	11:24am	7.2m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	11:25am	4.7m
	Sunday	11:57am	4.8m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	12:32pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:05pm	5.5m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	12:44pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:11pm	5.0m

## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

<b>Amsterdam</b>	-4°C	<b>Madrid</b>	9°C
<b>Athens</b>	10°C	<b>New York</b>	-2°C
<b>Barcelona</b>	9°C	<b>Paris</b>	4°C
<b>Beijing</b>	0°C	<b>Rome</b>	9°C
<b>Bombay</b>	29°C	<b>Sydney</b>	27°C
<b>Cape Town</b>	27°C	<b>Tenerife</b>	22°C
<b>Cardiff</b>	3°C	<b>Tokyo</b>	8°C
<b>Gibraltar</b>	18°C	<b>Vancouver</b>	7°C
<b>Hong Kong</b>	20°C	<b>Warsaw</b>	-7°C
<b>Las Palmas</b>	22°C	<b>Wellington</b>	16°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
<b>Ashford</b>	5°C	5°C	2°C	3°C	4°C	<b>Gravesend</b>	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C
<b>Canterbury</b>	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	3°C	<b>Maidstone</b>	5°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
<b>Chatham</b>	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	<b>Ramsgate</b>	4°C	4°C	2°C	3°C	3°C
<b>Dartford</b>	6°C	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	<b>Rochester</b>	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
<b>Dover</b>	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	3°C	<b>Sevenoaks</b>	4°C	3°C	1°C	2°C	2°C
<b>Faversham</b>	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	<b>Sittingbourne</b>	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
<b>Folkestone</b>	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	3°C	<b>Tonbridge</b>	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
<b>Gillingham</b>	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	<b>Tun Wells</b>	5°C	4°C	2°C	2°C	4°C

## Officers lay down litter of the law



TRAFFIC wardens in the borough will now be targeting litter louts on their patrols.

The civil enforcement officers (CEOs), as they are now called, have been given extra powers to issue fixed penalty notices to those who drop rubbish in the town.

The officers had to complete a Kent Police community safety accreditation scheme which means they can issue a fine to someone suspected of littering and take their name and address. The CEOs are pictured above after receiving their accreditation certificates from the Mayor of Ashford, Cllr John Holland, and Inspector Andy Judd of Kent Police.

Cllr Michael Cloughton, whose portfolio includes parking services, said: "CEOs spend most of their time on patrol and often see people dropping litter instead of taking it home or using bins. They were in an ideal position to take action against individuals seen to drop litter, but did not have the authority to do so. "We spend £1.1 million cleaning our streets and open spaces, money council taxpayers would prefer to see spent on other services."

"This training provides CEOs with both with the legal authority and know-how to make a real difference and we hope the public will recognise this and welcome their additional responsibilities."

The officers will be taking up their new duties in March.

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# Homes should cash in by generating their own electricity

DEMAND for solar panels is set to soar after the Government announced a support scheme allowing householders to make an income from generating their own power, a renewable-energy researcher has predicted, *writes Jenna Pudelek*.

Kent Green Party member Steve Plater said he was planning to install a photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of his Sevenoaks home that will convert solar radiation into enough electricity to meet three-quarters of his needs and save about £500 a year in energy bills.

Energy and climate change secretary Ed Miliband unveiled the new scheme this week; it will see 'feed-in tariffs' (FITs) paid to people, com-

munities and businesses who generate electricity from solar panels, wind turbines or other renewable sources.

PV panels on household roofs will get a higher feed-in tariff and all will be up-rated with inflation each year. Mr Plater said that after his system was installed he would make about £1,000 a year in payments as a result.

"Anyone who has got money sitting in a building society account would get a much better return by investing it in solar electricity," he said.

The Government said the sector would supply two per cent of the UK's electricity by 2020.

However, the Conservative Party and environmental campaigners

have said the announcement lacks ambition.

Shadow energy and climate change secretary Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said: "FITs are essential to allow decentralised energy to play a major role in our energy mix, but Labour's proposals lack ambition."

"Ministers should have been bolder with this scheme so more jobs could have been created and greater emissions reductions achieved."

Mr Plater, who gives talks about microgeneration of renewable energy across Kent, said: "It is really not ambitious enough – Germany already generates two per cent of its electricity from solar."

"The key point about renewable energy and energy efficiency is they go together and you can deploy them in hundreds of thousands of places very quickly."

"It is much quicker than building huge power stations – nuclear or coal takes years and years and they are not going to help us achieve climate-change targets by 2020."

"And we are the last major country in Europe to bring FITs in. Germany has had one since 2000."

However, Mr Plater thought that FITs would make renewable energy systems such as PV panels more attractive to householders.

"There are other reasons people want it, but clearly money is an

important driver – being able to finance it matters and also feeling independent from energy companies.

"If you can generate three-quarters of electricity from your own roof you largely escape future price rises."

Initial installation costs were high, with panels costing £5,000 per kilowatt of capacity, he said.

People can receive grants from the Energy Saving Trust's low-carbon building scheme, but only until March this year. However, with the feed-in tariff income, and saving on electricity bills, it makes an attractive tax-free return on investment of eight to 10 per cent, which is better than most forms of savings account, the Kent Green Party said.



**HEROES:** The SSFA is celebrating its 125th anniversary and wants your help to raise funds for ex-service personnel

## 125th birthday appeal to help Armed Forces

AN ORGANISATION that helps Armed Forces personnel is 125 years old this year.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) helps those currently in the military and servicemen who have left and are in need.

The Kent branch has unveiled a special campaign – SSAFA 125 – which is being launched with a service of celebration at Westminster Abbey on Thursday, February 18.

Suresh Khanna, the county's director of public affairs for the group, said: "To mark our 125th anniversary we are launching Target 125 and asking everyone to 'Be a Hero' and raise £125 for SSAFA Forces Help in 2010."

### Adapted

"Every contribution will help us to meet our pledge to support our troops and their families, now and for the rest of their lives."

"As the number of fatalities and serious injuries sustained in Afghanistan continues to rise, SSAFA's family-support groups are playing a vital role in helping relatives come to terms with loss and life-changing injuries."

"To date, 254 British servicemen and women have lost their lives in Afghanistan and this number increases by the day."

He said almost every parish in Kent had a connection with the Armed Forces so it was important to raise as much money as possible to provide service personnel with assistance.

He said: "Working in extremely dangerous and challenging circumstances, SSAFA Forces Help continues to provide our servicemen and women and their families with the practical support they need."

"Over the course of more than a century SSAFA has adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of our Armed Forces."

The organisation was founded in 1885 to support troops and families of the second

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

expeditionary force to Egypt. One of its current patrons is Prince Michael of Kent.

As well as fatalities, many servicemen and women return home from war zones seriously wounded.

SSAFA's two recently-opened Norton Homes, in Birmingham and Ashstead, Surrey, allow injured troops to spend time with their loved ones away from the hospital environment where they are being treated, giving them the opportunity to do normal family things such as eat a meal together or simply watch a film.

David Culmer, chairman of the south-east London branch, said: "In Bromley and Bexley we are running events throughout the year – look out for our flag day on February 13 in supermarkets, our quiz night for Heroes on May 14, and our band concert in October."

To help, go to [www.ssafa125.org.uk](http://www.ssafa125.org.uk) or phone the Kent county secretary on 01580 891507.

• A castle ball is being held at Lympne Castle on Saturday, February 27, to raise money for the Help For Heroes charity.

Party-goers can explore the entire castle and tuck into a curry feast and crêperie. There will also be a live jazz band followed by a disco in the castle's grand ballroom.

Being raffled and auctioned on the night will be a pair of Andy Murray-signed shorts, artwork signed by the Kaiser Chiefs and signed CDs from Tom Jones, Sting and The Stereophonics, plus other celebrity items.

The chairy has donated more than £23 million to help servicemen and women since its conception.

Tickets cost £39 and include hot buffet, entertainment and mulled wine on arrival.

Tickets can be bought by phoning 01496 860296.

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## Shock tactics at car crash demonstration

■ BY ED HILL

STUDENTS at the Towers School got to see up close the dramatic consequences of being involved in a car crash recently.

Kent Fire and Rescue spent the day at the school talking to sixth form students who may have a car or will be soon be drivers to teach them about road safety.

The highlight of the day was seeing a fire crew help victims being recovered from a mock accident.

Sixth form students Chloe Fairbrother, 16, and Stuart Taylor, 17, sat in a written-off Volkswagen Polo, purchased for the occasion from a local scrap yard, as the crack team set about cutting the roof off, so they could be transferred safely to an ambulance.

KFRS education team leader Andy Bigginton said: "Our crews attend 25 per cent more car crashes than house fires, and a large number of those people being cut free are young drivers and their passengers."

"The demonstration was quite graphic in the hope of shocking the students into taking care on the roads. Our message is clear: Cut it out before we have to cut you out."

The day's events also covered other road safety issues such as drink and drug driving, vehicle maintenance and dealing with different road conditions.

It was part of a series of events organised by KFRS, Kent Police, Kent Highways Agency, Kent and Medway Safety Camera



Partnership, Red driving school, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the Local Education Authority.

PC Clare Norman, safer school partnership co-coordinator for Ashford, said: "Reducing casualties who are killed or seriously injured on Kent's road networks remains a key priority for Kent Police. We talked to the students about the legalities of driving but they also got practical advice on car maintenance and were able to try out a car simulator."

"We hope to get the message across in a hands-on and useful way."

Stuart Taylor, who was in the car, said: "It was strange as they started cutting into the roof, but it gave you a real sense of what it is like to be involved in a serious crash."



GRAPHIC: Kent Fire and Rescue (above and below right) prepare to cut 'casualties' Stuart Taylor and Chloe Fairbrother free

### BREAK TIME

## Karen speaks out for second place

LOWER sixth form pupil Karen Ge has won second place at a public speaking competition on behalf of the Ashford School Young Enterprise team.

Her chosen topic for the competition was an exploration of the ethics involved in removing the popular reality TV programme Big Brother from the airwaves.

In her speech she looked at the impact of the show as a social experiment which enhances the lives and personalities of the people that take part against the argument that it is just a media exercise that abuses the people involved in order to create a celebrity culture.

The Young Enterprise team meets once a week as a co-curricular activity at

the school. It involves pupils creating and running a business in order to learn and understand the procedures and processes running behind it.

There are a number of competitions involved to enhance the understanding of business activities and develop skills as a public speaker.

## Sign up for karate lessons at school

CHARING Primary School is looking to run after school lessons in karate this term.

The sessions will be held on a Wednesday after school. Four lessons will cost approximately £35.

If parents are interested they can register at the school office or email [office@charing.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@charing.kent.sch.uk).

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# yourashfordblogger

One MP is using the iPhone to stay in touch with his voters, but it won't catch on, says Gary Wright



## Why most MPs aren't really ready for the superhighway

FANTASTIC story this week about MP Derek Wyatt who has launched the iPhone\* app to let his constituents stay in touch with him.

For those of you unfamiliar with the technological wizardry, it means simply that using your iPhone\* (you all have one don't you?) you can contact Sittingbourne's Mr Wyatt and interact anytime.

I admire Mr Wyatt (or 'two pork pies and a Scotch egg' as he's affectionately known after the expenses debacle) for taking up the challenge of bringing new tech to the masses and I honestly wish him well in his quest to engage even more closely with his constituents.

Unfortunately I forecast a rush to the Apple Store by the 10-or-so constituency nutters – that plague every MP – so that they can back up their weekly letters to Mr Wyatt.

Even the biggest Luddite must have heard of the Apple app? If you believe the ads on telly the iPhone\* can be made to do anything and

while it might not make the tea, there is probably an app that tells you how to make the perfect cuppa (and probably some information about blending).

But times really are a changin' and our MPs will do anything to get down with the kids and interact. Whether they are Twittering (er, another social network craze for those too lazy to write more than 20 words at a time) to guesting on any TV show which claims viewers under 25.

There is a part of me, a very small part, that believes MPs really do wish to make the world a better place and to give a voice to their constituents no matter how marginalised.

Mr Wyatt (who already runs a good website) said: "I certainly hope that now people know it can be done, and that citizens want to engage in this way, my colleagues at home and abroad take this idea and make it even better for their constituents."

The app was written by public sector digital agency, Public Zone, and is available free of charge from the Apple iTunes store.

Public Zone intends to roll out the MyMP

app, which also integrates with Google Maps, to other MPs this month.

I wish Mr Wyatt well but I foresee a slight problem with his fellow MPs.

Modern technology is pretty damn clever. The iPhone\* is a very smart piece of kit. But because of their GPS abilities and the marvel of Google Maps (from satellite pictures right down to a picture of your front garden just from a postcode), the iPhone\* can tell you exactly where you are. Oh yes, and it can tell everyone else exactly where you are.

Brilliant for parents who want to watch their kids (but who'd trust them with a 500 quid phone?) but not perhaps for your average MP.

Do they really want people to know exactly where they are every minute of the day?

I suspect not, far too risky... though I guess they could always leave their iPhone\* in the House of Commons on answerphone while they slipped off to do other things.

\* Other smartphones are cheaper: Google Nexus, Nokia N900, HTC Hero but they haven't the hype (or such a successful App Store).

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### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

\* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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# yourcompetition

PERCY JACKSON &  
THE LIGHTNING THIEF

## WIN! tickets to see Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief, plus goodies

IT'S the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus and assorted monsters have walked out of the pages of high school student Percy Jackson's Greek mythology texts and into his life.

And they're not happy: Zeus' lightning bolt has been stolen and Percy is the prime suspect. Even more troubling is the sudden disappearance of Percy's mother. As Percy adapts to his newly discovered status as a demi-god (his father is Poseidon), he finds himself caught between the battling titans of Mt Olympus.

He and his friends embark on a cross-country adventure to catch the true lightning thief, save Percy's mom and unravel a mystery more powerful than the gods themselves.

Your Midweek newspaper series has FIVE pairs of luxury seat tickets to see Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief – showing at cinemas from February 12 – courtesy of VUE cinema in Thanet plus FIVE packs of goodies up for grabs.



To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to

VUE Cinema Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is February 15, 2010.  
**Question: From what date is Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief showing in cinemas?**

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**EMAIL:** Email us your letters to us at yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk

## TALK TIME

### LEE ROSE

The Ashford Fire Station manager, talks about Kent Fire and Rescue's latest campaign to educate new drivers



#### Can you tell us about the latest campaign?

Along with a number of partners, such as the police and ambulance service, we are involved in educating potential new drivers to teach them about driving safely. We have demonstrations, including fire crews taking a roof off a car, to show what it's like to be in a serious road accident.

#### Are young drivers more likely to be involved in an accident?

Our statistics show that new drivers are involved in many of these incidents. The people we're instructing are mainly pre-drivers such as sixth-formers. They're exactly the type of people we want to target and hopefully with a proactive approach we can minimise the number of accidents.

#### What do you think showing people being cut out of a car achieves?

Pictures speak louder than words. By going to a school and demonstrating what we have to do it can have a real impact. Even if it just makes them think a bit more about it. It also gives us the chance to talk to youngsters about the rest of the work we do and may even create an interest in them about joining the fire service.

#### What is the Ashford area like for road accidents?

We cover a very wide area of roughly 100 square miles, which includes many rural roads where there can be serious accidents. We also have main roads like the A28 and the M20, so it has all the scenarios that an emergency service has to deal with.

## YOUR LETTERS



### Bunnett counts our future costs

Good to see the new chief executive John Bunnett preparing his staff for the tough years ahead as he seeks to oversee the necessary cuts in spending without affecting services.

Like all public sector employers, Ashford Borough Council has been guilty over the years of wasting money, normally on over-inflated salaries (though not in quite the same league as some Labour-controlled districts in this country).

This stretches back to the late-80s when council employees, like solicitors, were handed over-generous salaries to stop them moving into the private sector.

Then, when the last recession came along in the early-90s, private business was forced to curb wages, but councils did not (because we just keep on coughing up through council tax) and that discrepancy remains until this day.

So, full marks to Mr Bunnett for recognising he's going to have to be careful (with our money).



## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the [www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk) website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, [www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk) is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Ashford and Tenterden as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourashford before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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But what is this nonsense about public consultations to find out what we, the people who live in the borough, want the council to do?

This is a democracy, we elect councillors to represent us and

make the decisions. So get on with it.

And as for the efficiency savings, well done, but this should be an ongoing part of dealing with the money we pay. I'm sorry there will be job losses at the

council, but public sector employees must go through the same tough times the rest of the populace working in the private sector has suffered in the past 18 months. They, after all, are the ones who pay the salaries and if they have less money, then there is less to spend.

Of course the reality is if all council employees accepted a four per cent cut in wages, they'd still be about as well off as everyone else (prices have dropped in the last year, as have mortgage payments remember). Mr Bunnett could immediately show a four per cent saving.

But that's too simple I guess (and the unions wouldn't like it).

Ashford borough resident  
name and address withheld

## Feed-in tariffs will save us money

Kent Green Party welcomes feed-in tariffs for small-scale renewable energy, announced by the Government on February 1.

The Green Party has long campaigned for a feed-in tariff, which has been used successfully in other countries to boost micro-generation of renewable energy.

The new UK feed-in tariff provides a long-term guaranteed price for all electricity that is generated, even if the electricity is used by the household.

An extra tariff is paid for electricity fed into the grid. The feed-in tariff income and saving on electricity purchased yields an attractive tax-free return on investment of about 8 to 10 per cent, better than most forms of savings account.

Tim Valentine, who lives in Selling and is the Green Party

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candidate for Faversham and Mid Kent at the general election, had a photovoltaic system installed on Friday, January 29. In most cases planning permission for a photovoltaic (PV) system is not required.

He says: "The new panels have already generated 20 units of electricity, even in the weak January sunshine."

"The system will generate 60 per cent of the electricity we use."

"The feed-in tariff will provide an income of about £1,000 a year and reduce our electricity bill by a further £170. The whole system was installed and commissioned in a couple of days."

"Green Party policy is to create a million new jobs in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and public transport. Installing PV systems, for example, creates jobs for roofers, scaffolders, electricians and project managers."

Kent Green Party  
by email

## Take a leap of faith for Cancer research

Do any of your readers want to take up a personal challenge? Then I am writing to let people in the local area know about our latest skydive

campaign. Doing a sponsored skydive is a really different way to raise money for charity and a great experience to remember.

Anyone who raises £395 or more for us at World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) will also be able to skydive for free.

If you want to find out more about how to take part in a sponsored skydive, visit [www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising](http://www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising) or call 0207 343 4200 for more information.

Natalie Tarrant  
events manager  
World Cancer Research Fund

## Stop foreign truckers' roadside dumping

Roads leading to Ashford Cattle Market continue to be the destination of choice for hundreds of continental truck drivers who just want to sleep and have barbecues.

Despite the double yellow lines put down last year to discourage parking in certain areas, there has been little evidence of enforcement and those lovely truckers continue to dump their rubbish (and worse) on the roadside verges. Please, can someone address this properly?

C Davison  
Willesborough

## Experts go online for meningitis debate

If any of your readers have questions or concerns about meningitis, we would urge them to take part in Meningitis UK's latest initiative called Ask the Expert.

It's a unique opportunity which gives members of the public direct access to medical professionals at the forefront of treating and fighting the disease. Until February 19, you can go to our website – [www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert](http://www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert) – and pose any question on the subject of preventing meningitis.

Leading professors have been lined up to respond to the questions and answers will go live on the web on February 25.

We hope the initiative will help improve people's knowledge and awareness of meningitis during a time when cases peak and people need to be extra vigilant.

This Ask the Expert session is accompanied by an online quiz and interactive symptoms puzzle, arming people with vital knowledge to enable them to spot the disease before it's too late.

To take part in the session, visit [www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert](http://www.meningitisuk.org/asktheexpert).  
Kate Rowland, Meningitis UK

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# yourleisure



# Take a trip to Toytown

Noddy and Big Ears are joined by all their friends for a big party, but naughty Sly and Gobbo have other plans

### NODDY

Various dates  
Various venues



PAY a visit to Toy Town in the company of a children's favourite when Noddy returns to Kent.

Children all over the county have the chance to see the cheeky young chap and all his friends on stage in this colourful and exciting stage show.

With lots of songs and dances for the audience to join in, this is a fun-packed production for children of all ages. The tour also coincides with the 60th anniversary of Enid Blyton's enduringly popular creation.

It is the start of an exciting day in Toy Town because there is a special event lined up for the residents. Noddy and Tessie Bear are planning a sing-along, dance-along party.

The only people who are not welcome are the two naughty goblins, Sly and Gobbo, who cannot be trusted to behave well and not try to spoil everyone's enjoyment.

Armed with the Sound Sucker, another bizarre machine from Goblin Gizmos, the naughty pair set out to ruin the party. But their wicked plans could yet be thwarted by Noddy, who is determined to keep an eye on the goblins and make sure the day is not spoiled.

All the popular residents of Toy Town appear in the 90-minute show, including Mr Plod, Whiz the Robot, Bumpy Dog and Noddy's best friend,

Big Ears. Together they invite all the children to take part in a fun-filled adventure that provides a great introduction to live theatre.

Noddy made his first appearance in 1949 and became an icon of children's literature, providing the perfect way for youngsters to discover Blyton's writing. During the 20-year period between his creation and Blyton's death, 154 books featuring Noddy were produced and there was a wealth of Noddy merchandise for fans to buy, from Noddy toothbrushes and soap to nightdresses and bedside lights.

The Noddy Live show can be seen at the Central Theatre, Chatham on Sunday, February 21; the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on Monday, April 12 and the Woodville Halls, Gravesend on Thursday, June 3.



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## IRISH NIGHT

Saturday, February 13  
The White Lion Hotel, Tenterden

CELEBRATE the music and heritage of the Emerald Isle at a special Irish night.

Tenterden Folk Club has joined forces with Folk at the Drum, with support from the White Lion, to present three very special performers for an evening of Irish songs and stories.

Canadian singer and flute player Norah Rendell met American guitarist Brian Miller when they were both in Ireland studying the country's traditional music. Since their return to the US, their debut album, *Wait There Pretty One*, has been very well-received and earned Rendell a nomination for Canadian Traditional Singer of the Year.

Also appearing is Adrian Sullivan, known as Adrian O, an Irish storyteller, poet and singer-songwriter who



brings his own special wit, pathos and humour to the event. Whether invoking laughter or poignancy, he is a captivating performer.

The show will be held in the Saddlery at 8pm and tickets cost £6 in advance or

£7 on the door. Alternatively, tickets can be booked at [www.wegotickets.com/event/66073](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/66073).

Rendell and Miller will also be appearing at The Drum in Stanford at 8.15pm on Thursday, February 18.

## BODIAM CASTLE BY TRAIN

Tuesday, February 16  
to Friday, February 19  
Kent and East Sussex Railway,  
Tenterden

CHILDREN can travel on a steam train and visit historic Bodiam Castle free this half term.

In a joint promotion between the Kent & East Sussex Railway and the National Trust, passengers can enjoy a great day out for less next week.

Up to three children can travel free of charge with the purchase of one adult train ticket, priced at £12.80, and once on board they can see the guard wave his flag and have their ticket clipped by the friendly ticket inspector.

Young passengers should also keep their eyes open for Mr Mystery, the railway's amazing magician who will



keep everyone entertained with his fantastic tricks.

Children can then enjoy free entry to Bodiam Castle with the presentation of a valid train ticket, where they will find a variety of family events going on during the week. The offer is limited to

one free child per full-paying adult – adult admission costs £5.80 including Gift Aid.

Trains depart from Tenterden Station between 10.40am and 2.45pm each day. To find out more call 01580 765155 or visit [www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk).

## BELOW STAIRS AT LEEDS CASTLE

Monday, February 15 to Sunday,  
February 21  
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

HISTORY comes alive at Leeds Castle as servants of the past return to talk about their work.

Visitors can find out what it was like to live 'below stairs' at the historic castle over the ages, as its history is told through the eyes of the staff. The special interactive show will be bustling with costumed characters who have stepped straight out of the past to entertain 21st century visitors this half term.

The guide on this historical journey will be Gurth, a Saxon swineherd who travels through time to meet former owners of the castle and their servants. Held in a marquee by the maze, the



show offers audiences of all ages the chance to learn about history in a fun and engaging way that is not confined to a classroom. An extra charge of £1 per person applies for the show.

Key to the Castle tickets cost £16.50/£13.50 for adults, £9.50 for children and are free for under-fours. To find out more call 01622 765400 or visit [www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com).

## ASHFORD LEISURE

### History of gardens will whet your appetite

LEARN about Sissinghurst Castle Garden when Peter Rumley presents an illustrated history on Tuesday.

The day begins with coffee at 10am, followed by the lecture at 10.30am. A two-course lunch will be served in the Granary Restaurant at noon. Tickets cost £25 and booking is essential, so call 01580 710700 to reserve your place. For details visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

### Go behind the scenes at Smallhythe Place

FIND out how National Trust properties look when the doors are closed to the public next week.

As Smallhythe Place at Tenterden prepares to re-open for the new season, visitors are invited to discover how the Trust cares for the property. The event runs from 1-3pm on Wednesday, February 17 and tickets cost £7.50. Book by calling 0844 249 1895. Find out more online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

### Band's front woman may leave you blushing

ROCK out to great songs when Blush perform in Ashford on Friday.

The covers band is fronted by a female vocalist and plays a variety of hit songs in the genre. For more information go to [www.myspace.com/blushrockband](http://www.myspace.com/blushrockband).

Blush can be seen at The Star in East Hill on Friday.

### Equilibrium promise well-balanced set list

ROCK covers band Equilibrium play at a pub in Ashford this weekend.

The five-piece formed in 2005 with the intention of playing great music all over Kent. Read their set list and hear some of their tracks at [www.equilibrium-theband.com](http://www.equilibrium-theband.com).

Catch them at the George Hotel in High Street on Saturday. For more details about the venue call 01233 625512.

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# yourashfordmusic

## Hip hop title up for grabs, and ShyChlo is in running



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

WHEN grime star Lady Sovereign entered the Big Brother house last month she left her 'queen of UK hip hop' title and arguably her credibility at the door.

Pretenders to the throne are now intent on climbing the charts and claiming her crown.

One such would-be queen is Canterbury MC/writer/producer ShyChlo.

The 22-year-old has drawn the interest of a number of industry movers and shakers since bursting on to the live scene in 2008 and looks certain to draw more attention with the release of her debut single Mental Confusion later this year.

ShyChlo said her success was down to her lyrics, which go beyond the tired hip hop subjects of guns and violence.

"I just write and say what I feel, going beyond the glitz and glamour of the stereotypical 'rags to riches' hip hop, and focusing on issues like the struggles and peer pressures of today's youth – politics, religion and personal insecurities."

ShyChlo is something of a genre merger, drawing influences from UK hip hop, rock, punk and funk.

It's this fusion that saw new independent record label Flickfinger Records sign the young artist up.

Co-founder Kieron Corcoran said: "ShyChlo has a very clever mix of UK hip hop, rock and other musical styles."

"Her sound isn't affected by the US hip hop scene and so it's unique."



**LINE-UP:** MC Devlin, above, and rapper XO Man, right, will be supporting ShyChlo, left, at the Hazlitt Theatre this weekend



"She's got a lot of great feedback through the Myspace page and the fanbase is growing really quickly."

ShyChlo will perform at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, this Friday, backed by her four-piece band.

Support on the night comes from Hugo Urban Rules winning rapper XO Man and Dagenham-born grime MC Devlin.

For more information visit [www.myspace.com/shychlomusic](http://www.myspace.com/shychlomusic)

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Heartthrobs McFly perform in Rochester.



Sons of Alpha Centauri star in The Ether



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Gristlefridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 2 Craig Sheridan- Times Change (from Deal)
- 3 Shelta - We Can Make It Happen (from Bexley)
- 4 Directions - Equality Street (from Maidstone)
- 5 The Semantics - Soho Nympho (from Gillingham)

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# yourashfordstyle

# Love is in the air

Show them  
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Day gift

### LA SENZA

Mimi silk set - bra, price £30; shorts, price £14



### CARAT AT BLUEWATER

White gold diamond stud earrings, price £57



### HOTEL CHOCOLAT

The Gorgeous Chocolate Heart, price £28



### HOTEL CHOCOLAT

The Hero Collection Bag, price £15

### MARKS & SPENCER

Set of heart stacking mugs, price £12





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### THE BODY SHOP

Love etc 50ml eau de parfum, price £16; body wash, price £6.35; body lotion, price £7.30



### HOTEL CHOCOLAT

Little Gifts of Love, price £6.50

### BOOTS

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WITH THANKS TO FREMLIN WALK, WESTWOOD CROSS & BLUEWATER FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMPILING THIS FEATURE

## ASHFORD SHOPPING

### A very stylish gift for your special valentine

GIVE your loved one a new look for Valentine's Day by treating them to a personal stylist.

Anyone who wants help with their wardrobe will be delighted to receive a Bluewater personal stylist voucher, which entitles them to a two-hour session with Anna Moore from The Style Clinic with expert guidance and advice on the latest trends. Bluewater personal stylist vouchers cost £140. For more information visit [www.thestyleclinic.com](http://www.thestyleclinic.com).

### Square catwalk will put a spring in your step

IDEAS for a spring makeover can be found at County Square Shopping Centre in Ashford this weekend.

On Saturday there will be four funky shows taking place on the catwalk in the main mall, outside Costa Coffee, in which the latest looks for women, men and children will be displayed.

The shows start at 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm. For more information visit [www.countysquashopping-centre.com](http://www.countysquashopping-centre.com).

### What a sparkling treat for February 14th

ANYONE who has left buying their Valentine gift until the last minute could find help at Magnolia Jewellery in Tunbridge Wells.

The shop in Royal Victoria Place offers an Express Gift Service and their Style Experts will make sure you leave with exactly the right present for your partner, beautifully wrapped within five minutes.

Magnolia has unveiled its special Heart Collection just for Valentine's Day. Find out more at the shop or call 01892 546103.

### Desserts will put loved ones on cloud nine

SAY it with meringues this Valentine's Day by treating your object of desire to a mouth-watering dessert.

Faversham-based Head in the Clouds has created delicious and inexpensive treats. Head in the Clouds products are available from Fenwicks of Canterbury, Howfield Manor at Chartham Hatch and Taywell Tunbridge Wells, also online at [www.headinthecLOUDS.uk.com](http://www.headinthecLOUDS.uk.com). The shop at Whitstable Harbour Village will re-open on March 20.

### Support breast cancer with these gift ideas

YOUR Valentine will be tickled pink with a Breast Cancer Campaign Wrappz gadget cover.

The adhesive covers are now available with the campaign's pink ribbon design, the perfect way to show support for the charity while having a pretty adornment on your iPhone, iPod, mobile or laptop.

The Wrappz cost £4.99 and £2.60 goes straight to the charity. Buy Breast Cancer Campaign Wrappz at [www.wrappz.com](http://www.wrappz.com) or [www.breastcancercampaign.org](http://www.breastcancercampaign.org).

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The individual blocks are connected by a cotton casing to stop the blocks drifting apart to ensure a restful nights sleep. Why not add the poly cotton bespoke fitted sheet for only £14.99? The faux suede cover and fitted sheet are machine washable. Measures 24" x 24" x 21" folded and 72" x 24" x 7" unfolded.

11325	Pouffe bed	<b>£99.99</b>	rrp £199.99	<b>save £100</b>
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6453	Set of 6 clothes covers	<b>£12.99</b>		
8589	Set of 12 clothes covers	<b>£19.98</b>	rrp £25.98	<b>save £6</b>
10725	Set of 18 clothes covers	<b>£26.97</b>	rrp £38.97	<b>save £12</b>



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# yourashfordtimeout

## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### COMING OF AGE BBC Three, 10.30pm, Tuesday

IF ever there was a TV show from which not to take a comedic lead, then it's the never-not-appalling mess that is Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps.

Despite being one of the least funny sit-coms ever made it has now run for eight series, proving that someone out there must be watching it.

I didn't think it was possible for a show to be less funny or more moronic until I saw Coming Of Age, the latest BBC Three laugh-free zone, which is undeniably influenced by its bigger brother.

Here we meet our five main characters – three lads and two girls who attend the local sixth-form college.

They dress like they've been sponsored by Topshop and talk as if they have been locked in a room listening to Fearné Cotton since the day they were born.

They think of little else but who's going out with whom, when they are next getting drunk, and, erm... no, actually, that's it.

One recent episode had one of the female leads, a frizzy-haired girl whose name I have blocked out through trauma, boasting of relieving herself in a pub car park because the toilets were locked or blocked.

The pub, by the way, was called The Beaver (geddit?!).

I hate this show – it makes me wonder why I am alive.

It is a terrible waste of time and may well have been written by 12-year-olds on their school lunch break between games of Pokemon and mouthfuls of cheese strings.

Yet, as much as I hate it, strangely I find myself drawn in.

I wonder if one day it will ever



**NO LAUGHING MATTER:** Joe Tracini plays DK in BBC Three's so-called sit-com Coming of Age

make me laugh, or if I'll ever see the point, or if a plotline will involve any kind of imagination other than the bleedin' obvious.

Three of the characters are just plain annoying, but they seem like two of the screen's great creations when compared with one of the others.

Darren, or DK, is an imbecile of the very highest order.

He's the kind of tracksuited village idiot who goes into a trance when somebody mentions 'boobs' or 'bum' and is what makes the whole sorry affair plunge through the bottom of the barrel and start tunnelling for Australia with a JCB.

I read that the first series of this abomination is available on DVD.

I'm planning to buy a copy and blow it up with TNT.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)  
**YOU'LL** get a divine opportunity to put your expertise to work this week. If you play your cards right you could become a renowned expert in your field. You have to admit that it will be lovely having your pick of job offers. A best friend or colleague may be jealous of your success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)  
**YOU** could be handed some serious work responsibilities. Although these tasks fall outside of your normal job description, give them a whirl anyway. Your boss will be impressed by your versatility. If you are unemployed, apply for jobs in an entirely new industry.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)  
**A FACT-finding** mission helps a good friend with their work. If you see someone struggling, offer to do some research on their behalf. It gives you so much satisfaction to offer practical assistance. It may be hard to control your temper with the person you are helping.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)  
**AN** institution or hospital can give you the services you need. It's all a matter of filling out the paperwork properly. If you feel as if you're out of your depth, ask a friend for help. Their advice will be invaluable. Your boss may be putting undue pressure on you to meet a deadline.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)  
**MONEY** could be tight this week, which is really frustrating. You may not be able to afford all the things you have planned. Don't make lame excuses; be truthful. Friends won't judge you, but they will offer help, both emotional and financial. Accept the former and refuse the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)  
**AN** ability to put your creative talent to practical use helps you to travel or study for very little money. Refrain from telling an authority figure what you really think of their methods. Yes, this person is really full of themselves, but they do have the power to hire or fire you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)  
**THIS** is a good time to make a large-scale purchase of some kind. Your first priority should be finding products that are known to be durable. A flashy status symbol may be a big boost to your ego, but it will also dent your budget. Do a little research into which product is best.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)  
**TAKING** a class will put you in contact with influential people. If you long to switch industries, you need to surround yourself with those who can further your interests. An egotistical teacher could rub you the wrong way. Fortunately, you don't have to study with this blowhard.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)  
**PAYING** off a debt gives you a feeling of pride. It also helps you to spend more time on the activities you love. In the past you may have had to work a couple of jobs to make ends meet. Now that your financial obligations have been fulfilled you can go back something you enjoy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)  
**PROVIDING** stability for your loved ones is a noble endeavour. As a child, you may have been subject to an adult's wayward ways. Not knowing what was going to happen caused you a great deal of anxiety. Now you have an opportunity to create a nurturing environment for your family.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)  
**ALL** your hard work is starting to pay off. Although you may not have followed the most secure route to success, you didn't let that stop you from pursuing your dream. However, now that you've achieved some success, a one-time friend has become jealous.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)  
**MORAL** integrity is the cornerstone to your success. While your competitors may cut corners or make false claims to attract business, you refuse to stoop that low. Granted, it may take longer for you to attract business, but eventually the public will recognise that you're the best.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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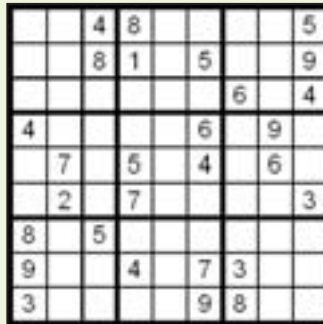
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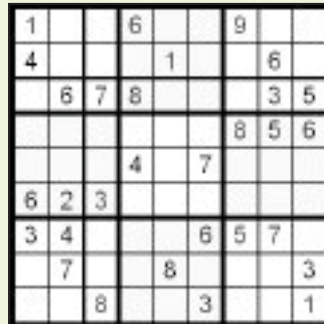
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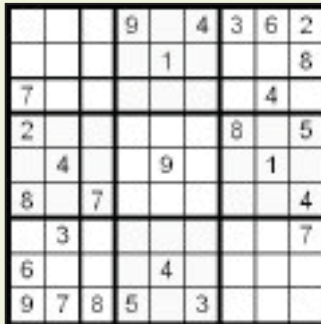
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## CRYPTIC CLUES

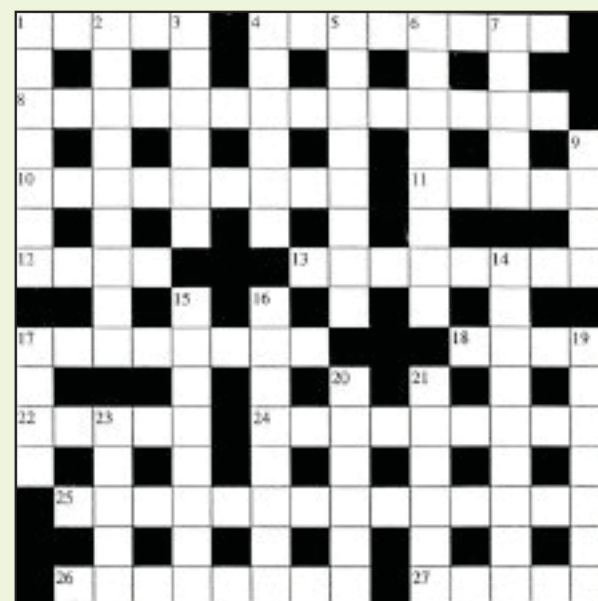
### ACROSS

- 1 Greek character thus produced pleasing sounds (5)
- 4 Mabel struggled having endless area to adorn (8)
- 8 Below building basic framework (14)
- 10 Showing layout of 99 matches played (9)
- 11 Didn't have mount for horse show (5)
- 12 Labourer loses five ships (4)
- 13 Patriot said drink must go first (8)
- 17 Question to disappear going round overcome (8)
- 18 English county was familiar in Scotland (4)
- 22 Luxury car encircling one fast car (5)
- 24 Not sure re performing a nice turn (9)
- 25 Market gardening business that is developing (6,8)
- 26 There's no going through it by the way (3-2-3)
- 27 Herb says 'time' (5)

### DOWN

- 1 China from SE Nemes (7)
- 2 Secure harbour that's a demilitarised area (4,5)
- 3 Sticky medal in mud (6)
- 4 Being something (6)
- 5 He, mixing with public, found it highly valued (4-4)
- 6 One's second personality to regale monstrously (5,3)
- 7 In River Soar Edmund rowed (5)
- 9 Habit of refusal? (4)
- 14 At home showing agreement but only roughly (9)
- 15 How Buck dug underground? (8)
- 16 Equivalent US cash Ma exchanged (2,4,2)
- 17 Particularly light? (4)
- 19 Can sort one of the prints (7)
- 20 Railway in dramatic surroundings (6)
- 21 Prince to expel novelist (6)
- 23 Some of decor furnishing island (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



## QUICK CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1 Manufacturer (5)
- 4 Fluctuating (8)
- 8 November 5th (3,6,5)
- 10 Bring in (9)
- 11 One from Des Moines perhaps (5)
- 12 Behind time (4)
- 13 Suicidal attack (8)
- 17 Condemn unheard (8)
- 18 Restraint (4)
- 22 Church council (5)
- 24 Underground fighter (9)
- 25 Intellectual nourishment (4,3,7)
- 26 Spawning (anag.) (8)
- 27 Prepared (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Fool (7)
- 2 Single operation on typewriter (9)
- 3 Motive (6)
- 4 Stop sleeping (4,2)
- 5 Claviers (anag.) (8)
- 6 Nasal inflammation (8)
- 7 Not at all (5)
- 9 Leg joint (4)
- 14 Columbine (9)
- 15 Blind person's helper (5,3)
- 16 Up a gorge (anag.) (3,5)
- 17 Mail (4)
- 19 Brutal (7)
- 20 Bellringer (6)
- 21 Bower (6)
- 23 Ruth's mother-in-law (OT) (5)

# LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No123

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



## CRYPTIC SOLUTION No123

**ACROSS:** 1 Jalopy 4 Bremen 10 Sackcloth 11 Valet 12 Padlock 13 Quondam 14 Atmospheric 16 Exchange ideas 21 Fixated 22 Felucca 24 Humph 25 Weathered 26 Natant 27 Antler. **DOWN:** 1 Joseph 2 Lucid 3 Piccolo 5 Ravioli 6 Melodrama 7 No time 8 Look up and down 9 Chequered flag 15 Tax-exempt 17 Hitchin 18 Dolphin 19 Afghan 20 Zander 23 Coral.

## QUICK SOLUTION No124

**ACROSS:** 1 Maker 4 Wavering 8 Guy 20 Sexton 22 Airbour 23 Neonate. **DOWN:** Guide dog 16 Age group 17 Post 19 Beastly 15 Keystroke 3 Reason 4 Wake up 5 Visceral 6 Rhinitis 7 Nohow 9 Knee 14 Aquilegia 15 Wingspan 27 Ready. **DOWN:** 1 Muggins 2 Synod 24 Guerrilla 25 Food for thought 26 Slow 18 Kamikaze 17 Prejudice 11 Introduce 11 Jawan 12

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website




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Comprising a carving knife, carving fork, and sharpening steel, it features a full tang and three rivet design, for ideal balance, weight, and durability. Each knife is crafted from the highest quality Martensitic stainless steel, making them easy to sharpen and slow to blunt.

This set will lend a traditional elegance to Sunday roasts with all the family, all year round. It comes in a wooden gift box, and carries the Richardson Sheffield 25 year guarantee. Dishwasher safe.



Item Code 11261

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**ARMCHAIR BOOSTER CUSHION JUST £19.99 EACH PLUS £1.99 P&P**

Refresh tired furniture and make it easier to sit into and get out of armchairs with these easy-rise booster cushions.

They give you a quick and easy solution to restoring the seat comfort of your chairs and sofa, putting the spring back into furniture to make it feel like new.

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### THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Disney breaks with tradition and casts its first ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale.

### EDGE OF DARKNESS (15)



Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone star in this dark thriller, adapted from a 1985 BBC mini-series. Gibson plays a veteran detective forced to investigate the murder of his daughter after she's killed in front of him.

### SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

# Two for price of one as Cera tackles double role

■ BY KATE WHITING

**YOUTH In Revolt** stars one of Hollywood's up-and-coming stars in Michael Cera, who's made his name through a string of geeky roles in Juno, Superbad and last year's Nick And Norah's Infinite Playlist.

At 21, Cera is no newcomer to the big screen – he's been acting since he was nine – but it was his role as High School student father Paulie Bleeker in Juno that made critics take notice. He was even nominated last year for the Bafta Orange Rising Star Award.

In Youth In Revolt, he plays strait-laced teen Nick Twisp, who has a taste for the finer things in life like Sinatra and Fellini.

On a family holiday, he falls for free-spirited Sheeni who eggs him on to create a rebellious French alter ego: Francois. Sporting a moustache and smoking, Francois takes Nick in an outrageous new direction, as he tries to win Sheeni's love.

Canadian Cera had long been a fan of author C.D. Payne, who wrote the book Youth In Revolt: The Journals Of Nick Twisp, on which the film is based, and was signed up to the project before Juno and Superbad even hit our screens.

"The book is really funny. It's got a really unique voice and it's gigantic, it takes months to read if you're a slow reader. I was around the age of Nick when I read it and I completely related to it," says Cera, with a half-smile.

"I related to the agony of not knowing what's going on and being obsessed with a girl and not having any control, which Payne wrote really perfectly."



ALTER EGO: Michael Cera as French Francois

When Nick meets Sheeni, he's feeling completely disillusioned about his mundane existence. Cera explains: "Nick doesn't have a great home life. His parents are divorced, his mother has an idiot boyfriend and his life is stagnant. He meets this girl who blows his mind and he feels he has to hang on to her."

Cera reportedly split from his actress girlfriend Charlyne Yi last summer after they co-

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starred in indie project Paper Heart. He says he can relate to the 'torment' Nick suffers through his love for the mysterious Sheeni.

"You never know what she feels about you or what she's really thinking. She's such a puzzle. That's really what I loved about the character. She's so well-depicted in the book."

Despite having to play two very different characters in the same film, Cera insists he didn't find this difficult. In fact, he loved the opportunity to play a naughty version of Nick.

"It was just a lot of fun to play. I wouldn't say it was hard, except for the technical tricks of it. I can't think of any challenges, except for trying to figure out how to play Francois initially, and what the voice was going to be like."

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## Tenerife is your paradise found

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

TENERIFE is known as a tourist hot spot sullied by over-development and bad behaviour by visitors.

The island, however, wants a new reputation to lure discerning travellers to its sun-kissed shores.

The largest of the Canary Islands off the coast of north-west Africa, this Spanish isle has a temperate climate year round, rivalling destinations like Dubai and The Gambia for weather, with shorter flights from Britain.

A smattering of exclusive hotels is emerging on the west coast, far from the all-night partying of Playa de las Americas and neighbouring Los Cristianos, where apartments go so far inland they swamp the surrounding hills.

Away from all that is the five-star Sensatori Resort on the outskirts of the village of Alcala, further up the coast, around 10 minutes' drive from the dramatic cliffs of Los Gigantes in the west.

It's here that I discovered a true taste of paradise, taking in the stunning 260m infinity pool, the largest in Europe, the shimmering Atlantic and the neighbouring island of La Gomera.

At Sensatori, the stunning rooms, marble flooring, sparkling chandeliers, fountains, designer decor and dramatic sculptures can take your breath away.

Bag a villa in its Red Level area and you get a butler and private pool within your tropical garden, and an outdoor double bed under a thatched canopy.

At the Sensatori's Michelin-starred Calima restaurant, where chef Dani Garcia is a bit of a celebrity, our 12-course taster menu began with delicious dry-ice cocktails and included delicacies such as foie gras, oysters and truffle cake, accompanied by fine wines, some produced locally.

But it's not only the hotels that are falling over backwards to spruce up this island.

Last year, Siam Park, a water park, opened in the south, boasting the biggest artificial waves in the world at nearly 10ft high. Its surrounding beach is created with tons of silky white sand imported from Portugal.

We hired a private cabana within the park, with its own balcony overlooking the wave pool, to allow us the luxury of a safe TV, DVD and Wi-Fi connection, plus mini-bar, comfortable loungers and an outside shower. If you want a similar package for four, including entrance, fast-track queuing and limited all-inclusive deal in restaurants and bars, it costs a cool 400 euros (£360).

Ecological measures are also being stepped up to save what is left of Tenerife's natural beauty.

Nearly a decade ago, virtually anyone could – and did – take a boat from Los Cristianos to watch whales and dolphins. Many



**LAP OF LUXURY:** Enjoy some sun-kissed serenity at the Sensatori Resort near Alcala

beautiful creatures were surrounded by boats, with tourists happily snapping away.

Under new rules, boats must be licensed and are carefully monitored to stop whales and dolphins from becoming distressed. The marine guide on our charter said that this had driven away unscrupulous operators and

improved the whales' breeding cycles.

Tenerife is still home to all-night party-goers, English pubs and and bacon-and-eggs breakfasts after a heavy night.

But if all you want is peace, quiet and serenity in the ultimate tropical setting all year, it may be closer than you ever imagined.

### FACT FILE: TENERIFE

Time difference	0 hours (GMT)
Language	Spanish
Capital	Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Population	900,000
Currency	Euro
Religion	Catholic

### Travel Facts

Hannah Stephenson was a guest of Thomson Holidays, which offers seven nights' full board at five-star Sensatori Tenerife in 2010 from £758 per adult (two sharing), including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers and fuel supplement.

Thomson also goes to Tenerife via Luton, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle and Bristol.

Thomson reservations: 0871 236 5596 and [www.thomson.co.uk](http://www.thomson.co.uk).

Freebird One organises tailor-made private charters to watch whales and dolphins. See [www.freebirdone.com](http://www.freebirdone.com) for more details.



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## PROPERTY NEWS



**SUCCESS:** Hillreed has sold nearly all its properties

### Off-plan property sales are through the roof

THERE is nothing a builder likes more than to sell a home before it's actually built, and that's exactly what Hillreed is currently enjoying at Greenway, Kings Hill, near Maidstone.

Dean Markall, sales and marketing director at Hillreed, said: "Such is the desire to purchase property, most of the homes in our 'Farmyard complex' at Greenway, are reserved or sold and that is before we have even got the roofs on."

"Buying off plan enables astute buyers to hold the prices at 2009 levels which make financial sense."

"The building societies are still reporting house prices rising month on month, albeit slowly over November, but nevertheless they are on an upward trajectory. We anticipate a healthy market in 2010 which is great news for those who have already invested in bricks and mortar."

### Kent to get extra help to prevent repossessions

A KENT MP has welcomed news of extra government help for those facing repossession.

South Thanet Labour member Dr Steve Ladyman said he was pleased about the extra help to tackle house repossession in Thanet.

John Healey, minister for housing said Thanet is among 56 repossession hot spot areas in the UK being targeted for extra help.

Dr Ladyman said: "I am delighted the minister has recognised the need for extra help for Thanet. Thousands of people have already been helped by the Government at this difficult time but there are still people in Thanet having trouble keeping up the mortgage and good, independent advice is vital for them."

Others areas in Kent to benefit are Dartford, Gravesham and Medway.

Nearly 88,000 people have gone to [www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp) since its launch in September, over 26,000 of whom have used it to develop personal action plans tailored to their individual circumstances.



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**THE FRENCH IDYLL:** For many British people the typical rustic French farmhouse remains at the top of their list when they are looking to invest or live in a home abroad



# What you should know about buying abroad

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

KENT'S potential investors in overseas properties will do well to check out homes in France and Italy this year as two of the most stable markets.

The National Association of Estate Agents International said that, as always, any potential profits to be made will be down to the strength of sterling.

It said purchasers should look at what it called 'less risky' investments and in particular towards the more stable markets such as France and Italy.

But for the very best bargains, buyers should try Spain or Turkey, where the former has seen spectacular falls in property prices during the past 18 months.

But the association predicts prices will remain stable in the first quarter of 2010, so purchasers should consider making cash offers by March to secure a bargain in any of these countries.

And experts predict the balance of supply and demand will stabilise once house prices pick up and the pound strengthens against the euro.

Linda Travella, spokeswoman on Italy at NAEA International said: "After a slow start to the year, the last quarter of 2009 saw sales and interest returning to the international market, with Italy being considered a safer investment than many other markets around the world."

"As always, the strength of the pound will

have a significant bearing on the quality and quantity of sales, and this year it looks to stay at the same strength."

"Even though the UK appears to have fallen behind other economies in the race out of recession and economic recovery, sterling has held pretty firm against the single European currency, trading two to three cents either side of 1.10 during the second half of last year."

"For the first quarter of 2010 the number of international buyers is expected to remain low and therefore offers are more likely to be accepted making it a very good time to purchase an overseas property."

"However by late spring, property prices are expected to increase by three to five per cent. Key areas to invest in include Tuscany, Le Marche and the Lakes of Maggiore and Garda, where good deals can be found if you buy sensibly."

And Des Rowson, spokesman on Spain, added: "It has seen a difficult 12 months on the sales front as buyers have been particularly reticent about purchasing during an economic downturn."

"Bargains are available but remember, price reflects position and quality. Unfortunately the coming year will not change too much until we see the pound strengthening and clients accepting that the registered agents do know what purchasers are prepared to pay."

### Top 10 tips for buying abroad from [www.mortgages.co.uk](http://www.mortgages.co.uk)

- Never sign a contract that you do not understand (for example - if it is in a foreign language).
- Seek specialist advice from independent solicitors, architects and surveyors who know the country's laws.
- Ensure you do not inherit a debt on the property before you purchase, which a solicitor should be able to check - some developers borrow money against the plot to raise finance.
- Always give yourself a 'cooling off' period if you see a 'must-have property' and are tempted to put down a deposit.
- If you are arranging finance on the property, ensure in any contract and you have an 'opt-out clause' if a loan is not agreed.
- Try to arrange your mortgage finance 'in principle', before agreeing to purchase the property or pay a deposit.
- Arrange your mortgage in the currency that you earn in where possible, unless you'll receive rental in local currency.
- Think about combining your cash with friends or family: it could bring a villa with pool within your financial reach.
- Check with the estate agent or vendor that you are aware of the costs charged by the legal and government authorities for purchasing a property. Remember that bills do not end at the asking price
- Open a bank account in your chosen country and ensure you get a Certificate of Importation for the money you bring in from your home country. Set up standing orders in a local bank account to meet bills and taxes. Failure in some countries will land you in court.

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- Central Heated & Double Glazed

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# AUCTION

## Three-Day February Sale

Covering Kent, SE London, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire & Isle of Wight

Day One - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Monday, 22nd February - 11am.

Day Two - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Tuesday, 23rd February - 11am.

Day Three - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Wednesday, 24th February - 11am.



**DARTFORD**  
Semi for Improvement  
Guide: £175-185,000



**GILLINGHAM**  
Three Bed House for Improvement  
Guide: £34-40,000



**CATFORD, SE8**  
Workshop with Potential  
Guide: £35-45,000



**LOUISWOOD, CHATHAM**  
Individual Building Plot  
Guide: £45-55,000



**SIDCUP**  
One Acre of Grazing Land  
Guide: £25-35,000



**MAIDSTONE**  
Town Centre Commercial & Store  
Guide: £35-45,000



**ANERLEY, SE26**  
Residential Investment  
Guide: £99-109,000



**SITTINGBOURNE**  
Detached House for Improvement  
Guide: £215-220,000



**SUTTON VALENTINE**  
Cottage for Refurbishment  
Guide: £150-160,000



**STROOD**  
Care Home - 14 Acre Site with Potential  
Guide: £200-250,000



**MIDWAY CITY EST, ROCHESTER**  
Leasehold Commercial Investment  
Guide: £100-105,000



**GILLINGHAM**  
House for Improvement  
Guide: £80-85,000



**MAIDSTONE**  
Town Centre Commercial Investment  
Guide: £265-275,000



**MAIDSTONE**  
Four Parking Spaces Close to Town  
Guide: £8-10,000



**ST MARY CRAY, GREENFORD**  
First Floor Offices with Potential  
Guide: £35-40,000



**MARGATE**  
Three Flats for Completion/Investment  
Guide: £110-120,000



**SEARGATE**  
Two Large Subterranean for Investment  
Guide: £125-135,000



**BROADSTAIRS**  
Detached Lodge in Good Location  
Guide: £155-170,000



**CLIFTONVILLE**  
Two Bedroom Flat for Investment  
Guide: £55-60,000



**MARGATE**  
Freehold Residential Investment with Ground Rent  
Guide: £140-150,000



**NEW ROMNEY**  
Three Bed Semi for Investment  
Guide: £100-105,000



**GREENHITHE**  
Semi for Improvement  
Guide: £80,000 Plus



**LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE**  
Semi for Improvement  
Guide: £130-140,000



**GREATSTONE, NEW ROMNEY**  
Art Deco House & Dilapidated Chalet  
Guide: £80-85,000



**MAIDSTONE**  
House for Total Refurbishment  
Guide: £70-75,000



**RAMSGATE**  
Two Properties for Improvement  
Guide: £70-80,000



**CANTERBURY**  
0.4 Acre Site with Open Yard  
Guide: £15-20,000



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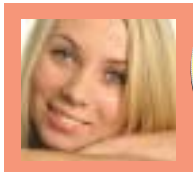
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## WOMEN seeking men

**MATCH OF THE DAY!** Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

**MAKE IT LAST!** Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558

**LOOKING 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!** 25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

**NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

**SOUND GOOD?** Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, v-goh, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

**FANCY A CUDDLE?** Loving single man, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'4, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

**COULD I BE THE ONE?** Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

**A FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308374

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft5, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 463036

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

**GROW OLD WITH ME** Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring, I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy for friendship and more. Box 860164

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, not smoker, for LTR. Box 446093

**SEIZE THE DAY** Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

**CUTE AS CAN BE** Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build, I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

## AN AFRICAN DIAMOND

38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460988

**WANNA RIDE WITH YOU** Curvaceous lady, 40, 5ft8, long curly hair, into motorbikes! Single mum, seeks fun-loving bike fan for rides into the sunset. Eastbourne. Box 458787



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Enter P2P as subject. MMS - network charges apply.

**FROM ME TO YOU** Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

**SHOW ME HEAVEN** Black lady, 39yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. With a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out. W/LTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

**CALL ME** Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells, I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, W/LTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

**LOVE IS ALL AROUND** Happy-go-lucky, bubbly Blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL** Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a home and love with. Box 444585

**DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?** Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129

**STAY TRUE** Attractive, curvy, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 5'5", loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 461830

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

**SWEET AS HONEY** Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 54, age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

**AIMING HIGH** 6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS** Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 464102

**GENUINE REPLIES ONLY** Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

**TAKE IT EASY** Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973

**A REAL DIAMOND** African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866380

**DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?** Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music; looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a home and love with. Box 444585

**ETERNALLY YOURS** Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking, I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 448795

**ANY TAKERS?** Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE** Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

**HERE AND NOW** Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

**THE RIGHT FIT** Big lady (5'1), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862888

**JUST IMAGINE** Petite, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 471100

**LOVELY BUBBLY** Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

**WOULD LIKE TO BE HAPPY** Looking for someone who enjoys the simple things in life; wind and rain in my face, 53, red hair, warm holidays love mowing the lawn. Box 860558

**IT COULD BE US** Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

**YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...** Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 882410

**COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE** Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, W/LTM single loving male. Box 443642

**SOMEbody TO LAUGH WITH...** Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

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**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!** Smart petite lady 55, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

**SMART MOVE** Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship possible relationship. Box 430854

**DOG LOVER?** Lovely lady of 58, 5ft7, medium build, blonde hair, a hairdresser, likes art galleries, theatre, cinema and painting, seeks male to enjoy this and more. Box 457241

**MAKE A NEW FRIEND** Fun-loving lady, 58, 5ft4, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420

**PISCES OR CAPRICORN?** Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

**MUSIC TO MY EARS** Hi my name's Christine, 58, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for a slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

**QUALITY TIME** Widow, early 60s, likes dancing, drink, gardening, socialising, and walks works, seeking a good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

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## MEN seeking women

**OUT AND ABOUT** Bubbly male, 33, looking for a fun lady to go out with, like clubs, meals out, the usual things. Gillingham. Box 465643

**SIT IN** Genuine male, I enjoy football, golf, cosy nights, I'm 32, 6ft1, medium build, short dark hair, glasses, W/LTM woman, 28-34 with a great personality. Box 884207

**LOVE ME TENDER** Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200

**IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?** Fit, active man, I'm single, good looking, 40yrs old. I like cinema, walks, and eating in and out. Ashford area. Box 465457

**BOTTLE OF WINE** Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

**RECIPE FOR ROMANCE** Seeking lovely black lady to share interests with. I'm male, 36, and enjoy movies, cooking and dining out. Maidstone area. Box 462890

**LET ME LOVE YOU** Happy-go-lucky male, 36, 6'2", GSOH, large build, blue eyes/brown hair, likes socialising, relaxing weekends, loves children; seeks caring, honest female for TLC and love. Box 384903

**LOVE TO LAUGH** Looking for a down to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208

**THE GOOD LIFE** Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113

**SHY AT FIRST** Caring loving and genuine, hard working and shy at times, I'm 40, slim build, 5ft10, blue eyes, short hair. Seeking genuine lady in Kent. Box 465529

**FISHING & CAMPING!** Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

**MAKE YOUR MARK** Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

**RECIPE FOR ROMANCE** Brighton based man, 41, 5ft10, slim build, shaved head, looking for fun loving lady to share good times. I enjoy cooking, reading and walking. Box 465637

**LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE!** Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 465311

**PUT THAT SPARK BACK IN MY LIFE** Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, W/LTM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446211

**HE'S MIGHTY FINE!** Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, W/LTM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446212

**BE THERE NOW** Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things, W/LTM female to settle down with and find love. Box 443410

**ROMANTIC TYPE** Caring, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair. I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613

**ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP** Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465485

**GAME ON** Male, 44, 6ft tall, fairly sporty, romantic nature, likes the countryside, coast, going out; seeks outgoing confident female for friendship/possible relationship. Medway/Kent. Box 870699

**2 SEATS PLEASE** Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Box 859273

**TO THE FUTURE!** Well-built male, 44, looking for a female for friendship and fun, let's start the summer not being single and with a smile! Box 883622

**MAKE IT SPECIAL** White professional male, 45, 5ft6, non-smoker, kind, honest, non hang-ups, W/LTM some one special for LTR. Box 857608

**LOOKING FOR MY LADY** Active guy, young 47, professional, likes theatre, the countryside and photography, loves travelling, hoping to meet a mature warm hearted lady for life-long romance. Sittingbourne. Box 860916

**TAKE MY HAND** Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50, Deal, Kent. Box 460441

**GET HAPPY** Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461443



## MOTORS NEWS



### Black Edition marks 40 years on for 'Z' legend

NISSAN is celebrating 40 years of its legendary 'Z' sports car series with a Black Edition of the current standard bearer, the 370Z.

It is the latest in a line started by the then Datsun 240Z and still uses the classic rear-wheel drive layout preferred for sports cars. The Black Edition (from £33,645) is available to order now, in coupé form only, for April delivery.

It features unique red leather and suede interior with embossed 40th Anniversary logo seats and other premium features.



### Sportage ready to step from RAV4's shadow

IF Kia's current Sportage is seen as a cut-price alternative to the increasingly expensive Toyota RAV4, its forthcoming replacement deserves recognition as a smart new model in its own right.

It is a fresh and sporty design blending the key features of a sports utility vehicle – commanding driving position and raised ground clearance.

The Korean marque says the new Sportage will arrive latter this year with a "highly competitive diesel and petrol engine line-up".



### Skoda continues to help you save on a new buy

SKODA has extended its 'No-VAT' offer across all Octavia, Fabia and Roomster models, with a potential saving of up to £3,400. Instead of closing at the end of January, this deal continues with orders up to 31 March.

It means the popular Fabia supermini still costs from just £7,870 – saving up to £2,100 and including the eco-friendly Greenline (pictured) – while the award-winning Octavia range that played a major role in the marque's revival is available from just £10,526.



**A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER:** Mazda has opted for a lighter and lower design rather than premium-priced 'eco' models epitomised by their smart tax saving new-look Mazda3

# Mazda's 'lighter and lower' philosophy is looking good

RATHER than opting for premium-price 'eco' models, Mazda has adopted a 'lighter and lower' design philosophy across its mainstream range.

The current Mazda2 supermini, Mazda6 family/Mondeo class car and now the Mazda3 family hatch have all had the 'treatment': better aerodynamics, weight-saving and reduced engine emissions and fuel consumption.

This has delivered range-wide tax and eco-savings exemplified by the latest Mazda3 (priced from £14,730) and particularly the tax-beating 1.6 TS2 five-door diesel tested here (£17,390).

It can average more than 60mpg – without needing a six-speed gearbox – and also incurs the lowest payable road tax of £35 a year.

And because a brand that markets itself with a 'Zoom-Zoom' label could not escape with anything less, it also handles well without detriment to the ride.

Where some diesel hatchbacks can feel lumpy compared with their petrol sisters, the inherent lightness of the '3' means the heftier diesel engine seems to make little difference to

## ROAD TEST MAZDA3

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

the nimbleness of the car. So, with a typically crisp Mazda gearshift and direct steering plus a more than adequate 109bhp under the bonnet, this is a company or private buy that is easy to live with in all situations.

It cannot quite match the latest VW Golf for refinement, but is a more cost-effective option, to be judged more against the ubiquitous Ford Focus and latest Vauxhall Astra.

It looks leaner and more muscular than its rather frumpy predecessor and the cabin echoes the impressive Mazda6 in layout, style and quality, though rear legroom is only average for the sector.

Having driven most engines in the line-up now, test driving the well-equipped TS2 version of the 'cooking' diesel confirmed it as the 'go to' model for most buyers. By comparison, the 105bhp 1.6-litre petrol needs a lot of gearshifting to make progress, though still a rewarding drive.

For those who like the look of the '3', but crave more thrills, Mazda has also just launched the MPS hot hatch version (£21,500).

Arriving within months of the mainstream line-up this 257bhp turbocharged 2.3-litre petrol model can hit 62mph in just 6.1seconds and wears a bodykit to complement its good looks.



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BY STEVE LOADER @  
yourkenttv.co.uk**

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## USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

## SLASH YOUR MOTORING BUDGET

[carsforkent.co.uk](http://carsforkent.co.uk)

EVERYONE wants to slash their motoring budget and perhaps downsize too, but there's no need to buy new, even if used prices on top economy cars have boomed as 'gas guzzler' values went bust. Neither must you give up on style; admittedly, our choice here includes a couple of real motoring 'scrooge' options even though full of character, but BMW's Mini D can look after your wallet and street cred for a little more outlay upfront – you can be meaner and greener while making others green with envy

### FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S five-door city car shows that a highly space-efficient interior does not have to result in a utilitarian exterior. The compact Italian is also decent to drive, cheap to insure and costs peanuts to run. The original Panda of the 1980s was also cheap and cheerful, but didn't feature the cutting-edge technology and better build of its modern day counterpart. A lively turbodiesel – averaging more than 65mpg – and a rugged little 4x4 option only add to the Panda's attractions.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### PEUGEOT 107



PEUGEOT'S smallest model is the best-seller of a joint venture three and five-door city car project that also spawned the Toyota Aygo and Citroën C1. All come from the same production line in the Czech Republic and, with minor styling tweaks, are modern, stylish, cheap to run and reliable. Launch prices were not as cheap as expected, but robust new car sales and second-hand values indicate that the public is willing to pay to save money and the planet.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### MINI D



USED values for the frugal yet lively diesel version of BMW's reborn Mini are steep, but the rewards are worth it; the car drives well, oozes class, will save money while you run it and be worth more when you sell. The downside is a relatively cramped interior in comparison with its exterior – the antithesis of its all-British forebear – and rarity when buying. A late 'Mark II' petrol version with BMW's eco-friendly 'Efficient Dynamics' package is a possible alternative though.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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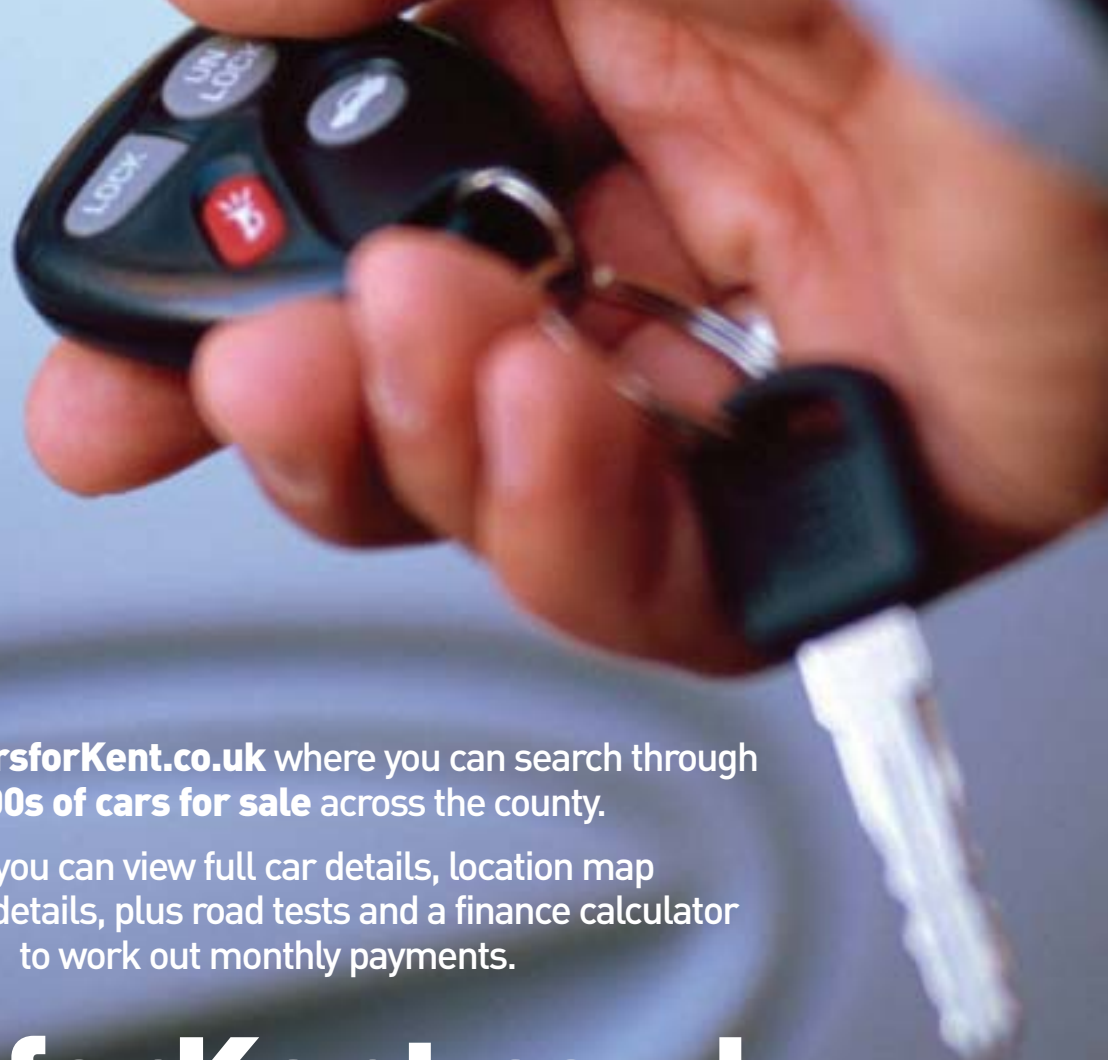
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*The Marlowe Academy is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicants will have to undertake Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB.  
The closing date for both posts is: Friday 19th February 2010*

**Marketing Assistant**

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.

**Marketing Assistant**  
This role will involve all aspects of campaign delivery including PR, online, briefing agencies, printers, and fulfilment house, the production of a range of marketing material and the analysis of marketing results. The successful candidate will have a marketing background with experience of working in the tourism industry and will be a confident, outgoing person with excellent communication skills and ideally proficiency in French.

**Salary £17,000 - £20,000**

Visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or [sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: 19th February 2010.  
Interviews will be held on 25th February in Canterbury.  
This advertisement first appeared on 6th February 2010.

**Visit Kent**  
Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.

**Finance Coordinator**  
(French speaker preferred), Canterbury based but able to travel to Maidstone approximately twice a week and to France, The Netherlands and Belgium periodically for meetings. The focus of the role will be the preparation of monthly management accounts, budgeting and forecasting, cash flow, organising and supporting external audit of EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa projects, monitoring of project budgets and budget holders. Must have excellent systems skills (Excel & Sage) and be capable of robust and detailed analysis as well as the ability to liaise at senior levels.

Experience in a financial environment and with European projects preferred.

Relevant tertiary qualifications required although **candidates actively studying will be considered.**

**Salary £25,000 - £30,000**

Visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or [sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: 24th February 2010.  
This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the District and Borough Councils, Tourism South East and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.

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You will have excellent communication, negotiation, organisational and interpersonal skills with a vision for the future development of the unit; incorporating its role as the Lead School for Dyslexia in the area, which will involve outreach provision.

It would be desirable if you have undergone training in Speech and Language Disorders or are willing to undertake such training.

Application forms and further details are available from the school.

Closing date: 9:30am on Friday, 12th February 2010.

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. Only applications submitted via the official application form will be considered.

T: 01304 375212 F: 01304 380766

E: [admin@walmerscienceschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@walmerscienceschool.co.uk)

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### Consultant for Minority Ethnic Achievement (Traveller Education) Ref: CA0973C

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Hours: 37 per week Location: Children and Adults – learning and caring directorate, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham

We are looking for a consultant with substantial and proven successful teaching and management experience in school for 19 April 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter, to be responsible for Minority Ethnic Achievement, and in particular for Traveller Education. The postholder will:

- provide training and school based consultancy to Medway primary and secondary schools to raise standards of teaching and learning and attainment for vulnerable pupils with a focus on minority ethnic pupils and in particular Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils.
- assist in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress and impact of provisions for vulnerable pupils in particular, GRT pupils in Medway schools.
- contribute to the raising of standards and improving inclusion of vulnerable pupils in Medway schools through training, challenge and support, and advice as required.

The postholder will be part of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Team and work alongside colleagues in the School Improvement Team. We welcome applications from the Traveller Community.

**Any offer of appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced criminal records bureau disclosure.**

For an informal discussion phone Amy Thompson on 01634 338543

Closing date for application: Monday, 1 March.

Short listing date: Friday, 5 March. Interviews: Friday, 12 March.

For an application pack or to apply visit [www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk) or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answerphone. Alternatively email [jobs@medway.gov.uk](mailto:jobs@medway.gov.uk) quoting the reference.

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Or e-mail [ynnez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:ynnez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk)



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with the family the nature of the services they require and how and where they might access them.  
You will have a good standard of education, at least to GCSE level, and be able to demonstrate a  
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For an informal discussion please contact Maree Stephens on 01732 465539.

An application pack and further information can be obtained by either ringing

01732 465539 or emailing [admin@springhouse.org.uk](mailto:admin@springhouse.org.uk).

Closing date: 12.00 noon, Wednesday 17 February 2010. Interviews are likely to take place during the week  
commencing Monday 1 March 2010.

Spring House Family Service offers good working conditions, and a comprehensive training programme.  
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Name of Premises: **Tenterden Town Hall, 24 High Street,  
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Applicant: **Hester Deackes**

Name of Premises: **Eastwell Manor, Boughton Lees, Ashford**

Applicant: **Turrlow Parrett**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the  
address below during normal office hours. Any person may give  
notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval,  
together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this  
newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
First Floor, Invicta House,  
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



### DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

**Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ashford**

Take note that the Incumbent and Churchwardens of the Parish of Ashford  
have petitioned the Commissary Court of the Diocese for the following  
works:

Removal of the nave pews and to lay a new stone floor to create a flexible  
auditorium space in the church, with the capability of being reconfigured  
to host small and large-scale services, arts and community events.

Relocation of the Pulpit and Font to improve sightlines in the church.

Reorder the nave altar and dais/stage.

Upgrade the present heating, lighting and sound equipment.

To provide new toilet facilities including extension to the vestry (planning  
permission gained).

To develop an Arts Development Committee as part of St Mary's outreach  
mission to build upon and extend a suitable programme of arts  
performances and exhibitions.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the Ashford Tourist  
Information Centre, Churchyard, Ashford, TN23 1QG and Ashford Borough  
Council, Reception, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL.

Anyone wishing to comment on or object to the proposals should write to  
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9BB no later than 11th March 2010.

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**EXPECTED:** Lisa Dobriskey is due to appear at Sheffield to earn a place in the Great Britain indoor team

## Lisa on track for World indoors qualification

LISA Dobriskey is expected to challenge for a place in Great Britain's World Indoor Championship team this Saturday, despite pulling out of a competition in Stuttgart last week.

The 26-year-old 1500-metre athlete has been plotting a bid for the World Indoor title, but doubts have been raised following her surprise non-appearance at the Sparkassen Cup on Saturday.

Dobriskey, from Ashford, was expected to line up against world champion Maryam Jamal for a re-match of last year's World Athletics Championship

### ATHLETICS

1500m final, but decided to pull out of the event. Her coach George Gandy confirmed she was not injured for the race, but wasn't feeling right to compete in Germany.

The world silver medallist has been confirmed on the start list for the 3000m at this Saturday's National Indoor Championships and World Trials in Sheffield.

She decided against competing in the

National Indoor Championships last year, but boasts an impressive record of two wins and a second place from her last three outings there.

After admitting to a disappointing performance in her first indoor meeting of the season at Glasgow last month, she will have to up her game to win a place in the Great Britain team for the World Indoor Championships in Doha next month.

The last time Dobriskey competed in the World Indoor Championship was in 2008, where she finished tenth in the 3000m final.



**HALTED IN THEIR TRACKS:** Ashford's (in yellow) winning run was snuffed out at Vigo on Saturday

### RUGBY

## Ill discipline at root of Ashford's defeat to high-flying Vigo

### Vigo 13 Ashford 0

ASHFORD'S mini-revival came to an end as mistakes and ill discipline saw them fail to score a point away at Vigo on Saturday.

Dai Fussell's side came into the game on a high after wins against strugglers HSBC and Erith in recent weeks, the first time all season they had won back-to-back games in Kent 1.

But Vigo, with realistic hopes of a top-three finish, were a different proposition entirely.

Ashford's cause was not helped by injuries and unavailability, with Joe Lakin and in-form fly-half Jonathan Murray both unable to make the trip to west Kent. Skipper Peter Walsh was forced to switch to number eight, the first time he had played the position.

Up front, Ashford's pack were impressive and dominated Vigo's forwards in the scrums. John Norman, Paul Curry and Dave Connell led from the front, allowing Walsh breathing space to run with the ball from the back of the scrum.

When the ball reached the backs Liam Murray, replacing his brother at fly-half, did his best to unleash the backs on Vigo, but their efforts could not make it over the try line.

At the other end Vigo had more of a cutting-edge, taking advantage of unforced errors from Ashford, whose ill discipline at times conceded several penalties which paved the way for the hosts' 13 points.

Walsh said: "I've told my team to learn from our mistakes and put it down to a bad day at the office. It's back to the drawing board at training this week and we will put it right with a home win against Beccehamian on Saturday."

The game represents a decent chance to bounce back to winning ways, with Beccehamian two places below Ashford in the Kent 1 table.

Kick-off at Kinney's Field is at 2.15pm.



**DOUBTFUL:** Jamie Staff (far right) looks set to miss the trip to the Commonwealth Games in Delhi after concerns over the threat posed by terrorists to the participating athletes

# Staff is set to join boycott of Commonwealth Games

OLYMPIC champion Jamie Staff looks set to join a growing list of athletes who are planning not to compete at this year's Commonwealth Games.

The Games, which are scheduled to be held in Delhi, India in October, have been surrounded by fears over security, which has put England's attendance at the championships in doubt.

Staff, who lives in Brabourne, near Ashford, is a big supporter of the Commonwealth Games and has featured in the last two, at Manchester in 2002, and Sydney in 2006, winning two silver medals and a bronze.

But growing fears after terrorist attacks in

### CYCLING

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Mumbai and Lahore in the last two years, and concerns regarding the completion of venues has left the 36-year-old contemplating pulling out of competing, and given the choice, wouldn't make the trip to India this year.

### Opinions

He said: "I personally don't want to go and I'm not even sure if the track will be ready in time. There is a lot of speculation at the moment.

"It's a shame because the Commonwealth

Games are normally a fun event, but no-one seems to be worrying about it this time round."

With a back injury likely to force him out of next month's World Track Cycling Championships in Poland, missing the Commonwealth Games would end Staff's hopes of a major medal this season.

Staff's comments echo the opinions of a number of athletes, who have stated their fears of travelling to compete in India.

Last week world heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis said she has pulled out of competing at the championships.

Fellow Olympian Lisa Dobriskey, from Ashford, has also hinted she may have to think about whether she will defend her title after winning in 2006.



# Nuts and Bolts fall further behind as relegation looms

## FOOTBALL

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

### Ashford Town 1

Harvey 63

### Walton & Hersham 2

Martin 3, 33

ASHFORD Town's winless streak in Ryman South was extended to 16 games after the weekend's narrow defeat against Walton & Hersham.

Once again Ashford found themselves chasing the game early on after falling behind after just three minutes. Town goalkeeper Scott Chalmers-Stevens' clearance was charged down by Martin Grant and the ball trickled over the goal line and into the net.

Ashford responded and came close to an equaliser through Gillingham youth player Tom Murphy. The striker took on three defenders but his powerful drive was well saved by Delroy Preddie.

Just after the half-hour mark Walton & Hersham extended their lead. Ryan Lake's through ball found Grant, who rounded Chalmers-Stevens with ease before slotting into an empty net.

The home side fought back in the second-half and hauled themselves into the game with a goal on 63 minutes when Matt



**BACK:** Town striker Paul Jones came off the bench to make his return from a lengthy groin injury

Newman's free-kick was headed home by Laurence Harvey.

Town pushed forward in search of an equaliser and in the dying minutes Preddie denied new loan signing Craig Cloke and Murphy, as the hosts ended the game with another defeat.

Ashford boss Steve Lovell admitted the performance was a vast improvement after last Wednesday's 4-1 defeat against Fleet Town, but remains frustrated by the lack of points.

He said: "It was an improvement and for

### Ashford Town starting XI



Subs used: Jones (Lye 51), Ashmore (Harvey 68)

large parts of the game there was nothing between the two sides. We gave away another silly goal early on and once we did we were always fighting an uphill struggle.

"The second-half was better and it was hard to tell who was the side fighting at the top of the division. However, it's frustrating at the moment as we're not getting any lucky breaks. Their first goal could've gone anywhere, but the deflection flew straight into our net, which is typical of our season."

Ashford won't have to wait long for another opportunity to claw the deficit at the bottom back, as they host relegation rivals Whitstable Town tonight.

With the season entering the final third and Town six points adrift, Lovell is fully aware of how important a win against the Oystermen could be.

He said: "It's a massive game for us and one we really have to win so we close the gap to Eastbourne. We just need to get a win and once we do that hopefully more will follow. We've got players coming back all the time so we could be in a much better position."

## FOOTBALL



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

**EAGER:** Craig Cloke is determined to help Ashford ease their relegation fears

## Cloke in vow to help Town fight their way out of the drop zone

NEW loan signing Craig Cloke insists he's seen enough quality from Ashford Town to convince him they will avoid relegation to the Kent League.

The central defender joined the club last week on a one-month loan from Dover Athletic in a bid to help his recovery from two serious injuries.

Cloke, who came through the youth development programme at Dover, has missed the majority of the last two seasons with a cruciate ligament injury, followed by a damaged kidney.

The Nuts & Bolts' 4-1 defeat to Fleet Town last Wednesday was his first full game for 15 months and despite the heavy defeat, he believes Ashford are too good to go down. Although he is only on loan at the club, he is excited by the challenge to keep Town in Ryman South.

He said: "Ashford are fighting relegation, but what I have seen from my time here already is there is a quality in this team."

"They have had a bit of bad luck this season, but looking at the game against Fleet, when we were down to ten men, we bossed the game. So we have just got to build on that."

"I'm here to get my fitness back, but I'm a footballer and don't like losing so it's not a case of me turning up and playing. I want to stay here for the month and get as many games as I can under my belt, and help Ashford."

After an impressive performance during Saturday's 2-1 defeat against Walton & Hersham, Cloke is expected to keep his place in the centre of defence for tonight's relegation six-pointer against Whitstable Town.

## LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	24	17	5	2	+20	56
2 Croydon Athletic	24	14	6	4	+28	48
3 Fleet Town	25	15	3	7	+21	48
4 Worthing	25	14	3	8	+14	45
5 Godalming Town	22	13	3	6	+15	42
6 Walton & Hersham	25	12	5	8	+6	41
7 Dulwich Hamlet	26	9	10	7	+5	37
8 Burgess Hill Town	24	10	6	8	+4	36
9 Chatham Town	27	11	3	13	-10	36
10 Sittingbourne	22	10	5	7	+14	35
11 Horsham YMCA	27	8	11	8	+5	35
12 Ramsgate	24	9	7	8	0	34
13 Corinthian-Casuals	25	10	3	12	-7	33
14 Merstham	25	9	6	10	-8	33
15 Leatherhead	22	9	3	10	+8	30
16 Whyteleafe	24	9	3	12	+2	30
17 Metropolitan Police	23	7	7	9	+4	28
18 Walton Casuals	25	6	6	13	-11	24
19 Chipstead	26	6	6	14	-14	24
20 Whitstable Town	24	6	2	16	-33	20
21 Eastbourne Town	26	3	9	14	-29	18
<b>22 Ashford Town</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>14</b>

**FIXTURES (Tonight):** Ryman One South: Ashford Town v

Whitstable Town, (Saturday): Dulwich Hamlet v Ashford Town

# Mixed results for Sunday clubs involved in cup action

## SUNDAY LEAGUE

BROMLEY Green moved into the last eight of the Kent Sunday Premier Cup in style by thrashing south London side Hatcham.

Green dominated the game from start to finish, with Danny Valor, Pat Law, Glen Mackett, Ryan Norman, Ryan Fitzgerald and Kenny Hackett all on the score sheet in the 6-0 thumping.

Elsewhere in the competition, Market Hotel ended Kennington's cup hopes with a 2-1 victory. Goals from Craig Southern and Liam Whiting proved enough to send Market Hotel into the next round.

Bliby crashed out of the Sunday Cup after suffering a heavy 4-1 defeat to Tunbridge Wells side Artois. Richard Boorman scored what proved to be a consolation goal for Bliby.

In the Junior Trophy, Ashford Victoria booked their place in the quarter finals with a resounding 5-0 win against Ebbsfleet. Luke Walder was the man of the match, as his hat-trick and goals from Shane Jupp and Dan Bushell guided Victoria to victory.

William Harvey Inn's trophy dreams are over for another season, as they were knocked out of the competition following a 1-0 defeat to Isted. Marsh Athletic were also left disappointed, after being thrashed 5-1 by Sittingbourne side Park Regis.

In the only game in the Premier Division, Bethersden maintained their place at the top of the league after a comfortable 4-1 in against at Mersham. The three points were secured with a brace for Shane Simms and strikes from Tim Sims and Joe Duke.



Picture: IAN KIRKWOOD

**CUP RUN:** Bromley Green booked their place in the Kent Sunday Premier Cup with a convincing victory

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